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THE TIMES

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No. 65,754

FRIDAY DECEMBER 6 1996

TODAY

I AM AN X-PHILE

How I was converted to Scully and Mulder by Erica Wagner

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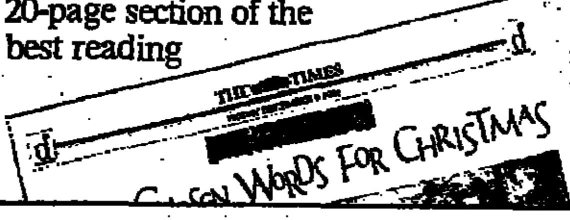
BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

20-page section of the best reading



SOUL SURVIVOR

Diana Ross charms Alan Jackson

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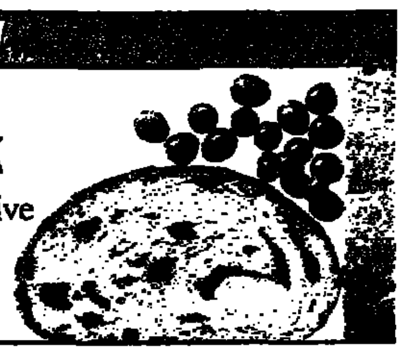
FOOD AND DRINK

32 pages of festive entertaining

MAGAZINE



Labour MP witnessed briefing over lunch

Major moves to deny rift with Clarke

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

Clarke: denied threat to resign over euro

JOHN MAJOR and Kenneth Clarke were struggling to counter suggestions of a potentially fatal rift last night after the BBC reported that the Chancellor was prepared to lead a mass walkout from the Government if the Prime Minister gave in to the Right over Europe.

Both were forced to deny that the *Chancellor had* threatened to resign if Mr Major abandoned his "wait-and-see" approach to a single currency — Mr Clarke in a surprise statement in mid-afternoon and the Prime Minister in the Commons 20 minutes later.

But their statements failed to ease the air of crisis surrounding the Government — reinforced by an opinion poll putting Labour 37 points ahead — and the impression that trust between the Prime Minister and his Chancellor had broken down.

The BBC had reported at lunchtime that Mr Clarke believed "someone close to the Prime Minister" was behind an attempt to abandon the agreed policy on a single currency — a move he was said to have described as "a boomerang laden with high explosives which has blown up in the Prime Minister's face, damaging Mr Major badly in the process".

Mr Clarke was also said to have confronted the party *chairman, Brian Mawhinney,* because he believed that Central Office staff were suggesting that the policy would change. He is reported to have told Dr Mawhinney: "Tell your kids to get their scooters off of my lawn." Last night Mr Clarke issued a joint statement with Dr Mawhinney denying that story as well.

But the BBC report was given credence by the disclosure that its author — the political correspondent Jon Sopel — had lunch with Mr Clarke on Wednesday. A Labour frontbencher, who *had* been at the same London restaurant with the BBC's political editor, gleefully let the cat out of the bag when he heard Mr Sopel's report on *The World at One.*

Westminster was soon agog with the news that Mr Sopel had been reporting directly the Chancellor's views, even though Mr Clarke made plain that he disagreed with the BBC's version of events. He said he had not threatened to resign and was not threatening to resign.

Downing Street also moved to play down talk of a split, saying: "Relations between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor are perfect. The Chancellor feels he has been misrepresented and has taken the opportunity to put the record straight."

But Mr Major's discomfort grew last night when most of the Tory MPs who spoke in a private 1922 committee debate on the single currency called for the "wait-and-see" police to be reversed — *in spite of* Mr Major's categorical statement on Tuesday that it would not be changed before the election.

The impromptu debate was started by the sceptic Edward Leigh who, without mentioning Mr Clarke, was reported to have said that the democratic will of the party was being frustrated. And Sir Peter Tapsell was loudly cheered when he said that Winston Churchill had not triumphed in 1941 by arguing that Britain's men should fight only to the best of their abilities, *dependant on their resources,* and settle for second best.

Tony Marlow, the Euro-sceptic MP who also spoke at the meeting, said afterwards: "The chancellor clearly has no confidence in the Prime Minister and the Party chairman. The Cabinet is divided. We cannot go into a General Election in this state. Kenneth Clarke has to go or he has to be fired."

But the pro-Europeans are in an equally determined mood. Several have warned Alastair Goodlad, the Chief Whip, that there would be a backlash if the position changed. Hugh Dykes, the Tory MP for Harrow East, said: "We have an agreed position. The Euro-sceptics *should not be allowed to* hijack it. The Cabinet position is firmly agreed."

The most damaging aspect of the disclosure of Mr Clarke's private thoughts was the clear impression it gave of a breakdown of trust between himself and the Prime Minister.

If the BBC's report was accurate, Mr Clarke clearly believed that friends of Mr Major were behind the reports of an attempt to change the policy he agreed with the Prime Minister last April when he finally went along with the idea of a referendum.

The report also confirmed the Euro-sceptic suspicions that Mr Clarke has pinned Mr Major into a position where he cannot change their agreement. Mr Clarke was said by the BBC to be *making* clear that if the police did change, not only would he go, but a number of junior and middle-ranking ministers would go with him, and a handful of Tory MPs could cross the floor of the House.

☐ A Gallup survey in *The Daily Telegraph* puts Labour support at 59 per cent, up four points, and that for the Conservatives at 22 per cent, down six points. Many of those questioned thought that they were worse off after the Budget and 60 per cent thought it was *"not good for families"*.

Mayfair lunch, page 12

Leading article, page 21

How EU fines could add up

France and other countries joining the European single currency could end up paying more in fines to the European Commission than Germany paid in reparations after the First World War.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 29

Pensions leak triggers dispute

**BY JILL SHERMAN
MICHAEL EVANS
AND DOMINIC KENNEDY**

LEAKED proposals to save £100 million over three years by cutting benefits for war widows and disabled former servicemen provoked a furious row in the Commons yesterday between Tony Blair and the Prime Minister.

The Labour leader accused the Government of doing something "shabby and mean-minded," but John Major claimed Mr Blair had "completely misunderstood" the issue, insisting no pensioners would lose out.

Labour is demanding a Commons vote and several Tory MPs have threatened to rebel unless the policy is reversed. Winston Churchill, *Conservative MP* for Davyhulme, has called for the resignation of William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. But the Government appeared to have won the support of leading war pensioner charities, which claimed they found nothing "overly confrontational".

Mr Blair urged the Prime Minister to apologise for his "deception", asking him to answer specific points "or stand condemned out of your mouth". The Prime Minister said no existing pensioners would lose out as he defended a decision to limit benefit payments made to those

Continued on page 2, col 6

Superbug that eats antibiotics turns cure into killer

**BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT**

TWO patients at a London hospital have become the first in the world to be infected with a *mutant "superbug" that* evades detection by thriving on the antibiotics used to try to kill it.

Scientists at St George's Hospital Medical School, Tooting, describe the mutant bacterium as "the ultimate step" in the evolution of antibiotic resistance.

The patients, men aged 60 and 64, recovered after the antibiotic was withdrawn and the mutant bacterium died. But Dr Ian Eltringham and colleagues in the Public Health Laboratory at St George's say that because it was thriving on the treatment designed to kill it, the bacterium could be fatally overlooked.

"Have we at last witnessed the emergence of a true superbug?" they write in the *Lancet.*

The bacterium, *Enterococcus Faecium,* is naturally present in the gut and is millions of years old. The two patients, who were admitted a month apart and had both undergone major surgery, developed resistant strains of the bacterium after being treated with the powerful antibiotic vancomycin.

Dr Eltringham said: "There is nothing unusual in that. We see a lot of resistant strains in hospital because a lot of antibiotics are used. What was unusual was that we found the organism had evolved into a vancomycin-*dependent* strain. That meant the antibiotic intended to kill it was making it grow. The cure had become the killer."

The mutant is difficult to *detect because it cannot* be grown in the laboratory. So the patient grows steadily sicker, but the cause of the illness cannot be found.

SIMON WALKER

The Duchess of Kent, who yesterday cancelled all of her official engagements

Duchess suffering ME

BY ALAN HAMILTON AND JEREMY LAURANCE

THE DUCHESS OF KENT has chronic fatigue syndrome, the illness also known as myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), and has cancelled all of her official engagements.

The news was released by her office yesterday, the day she was to have attended the annual awards ceremony of Childline, the children's charity organised by Esther Rantzen, the television presenter. Miss Rantzen, whose 18-year-old daughter is also a *sufferer,* recently engaged in an ill-tempered television debate with Dr Thomas Stuttaford of *The Times* over whether ME was a clinical or an imagined condition.

Chronic fatigue syndrome is a portmanteau term used by *doctors to describe a condition* the cause of which is not understood. It is defined as severe disabling fatigue lasting at least six months that is made worse by physical or mental exertion and for which no adequate medical explanation can be found. Up to 2.5 per cent of the population is *believed to be affected by it.*

Theories about the condition have provoked bitter controversy. Patients' groups such as the ME Association claim that organic factors play an important role, but many doctors believe the causes to be primarily psychological.

A spokesman for the Duchess, who is 63, said yesterday: "She made it known earlier this year, at the time of her visit to India, that she was suffering from a virus with symptoms similar to ME. She was later diagnosed with ME."

The spokesman added that the illness had no link with the Duchess's earlier bouts of depression, which began after she had a miscarriage 21 years ago as a result of contracting German measles. She lost another baby two years later when she was 44.

The Duchess is understood to be optimistic that she will soon recover and be able to resume public life. "It is

Continued on page 2, col 1

Papal rebuke over women

The Pope told the Archbishop of Canterbury in a blunt discussion on women priests that only he had authority "as the successor to St Peter" to lay down doctrine.

Dr George Carey replied at their Vatican meeting that the Church of England was entitled to make its own decisions............. Pages 5, 21

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Amateurs humiliate England cricketers

FROM SIMON WILDE IN HARARE

ENGLAND'S cricketers experienced one of the most humiliating defeats in their recent chequered history when they were beaten yesterday — with a day to spare — by Mashonaland, a province in Zimbabwe, the weakest cricketing Test nation in the world.

England had expected some easy matches on their visit but have now lost two of their first three games, the other being spoiled by rain.

The English cricketers, who play the game all year round, were outclassed by a team of a few professionals and a handful of amateurs whose commitments as farmers prevent them from devoting much time to playing. Mashonaland were without three of their leading players because of work commitments and one of their top bowlers is injured. Some of the England players earn well over £150,000 a year from the game while the Mashonaland players receive £9 per day.

England scored only 197 and 180 in their two innings and bowled badly. Their top three batsmen, Mike Atherton, Nick Knight and Alec Stewart, scored only 19 runs between them.

Zimbabwe possess only 350 adult cricketers who play seriously and 30 clubs, most based in Harare and Bulawayo. Among these is Harare Sports Club, which staged yesterday's match and possesses some equipment only because English county clubs leave it behind when they visit.

☐ Tim Henman, Britain's top tennis player, doubled his 1996 prize money when he qualified for the semi-finals of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup in Munich. Henman, assured of £260,000, meets Boris Becker for a place in the final.

Tennis, page 42

Cricket, page 48

"Prince William shot him"

Traitor Vassall dies at 71

John Vassall, the traitor at the centre of a spy scandal in the 1960s, has died aged 71, it was disclosed yesterday.

Vassall, a homosexual, was jailed in 1962 at the end of a trial in which he was convicted of passing secrets to the KGB. He was released after 10 years. His funeral at the Brompton Oratory in Knightsbridge on Tuesday was attended by more than a hundred people......... Page 23

US gets first woman Secretary of State

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday chose Madeleine Albright, US Ambassador to the United Nations, to be America's first female Secretary of State.

Mr Clinton also ended a logjam of Cabinet appointments which threatened to blight the start of his second term when he named his new national security team.

Mr Clinton nominated William Cohen, 56, a Maine Senator, to be Defence Secretary and the first Republican in his Cabinet, fulfilling his promise to try to include Republicans in his Administration. Anthony Lake, 57, the National Security Adviser, was nominated to take over as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. His deputy, Sandy Berger, was named as the new National Security Adviser.

The President's long-delayed choice of the new team comes against a background of foreign policy challenges in every continent. The White House also announced yesterday that Mr Clinton would hold a summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in America next year.

The nominations of Ms Albright, 59, and Mr Cohen, which are subject to Senate confirmation, were heralded yesterday by Democrats as imaginative choices which repeated the trailblazing character of the first-term Cabinet. Mr Clinton has been under intense pressure to include women, minorities and at least one Republican in his Cabinet.

Ms Albright's nomination, which came after lobbying by women's groups, is also believed to reflect her vigorous performance at the UN, where she strongly criticised the organisation for inefficiency.

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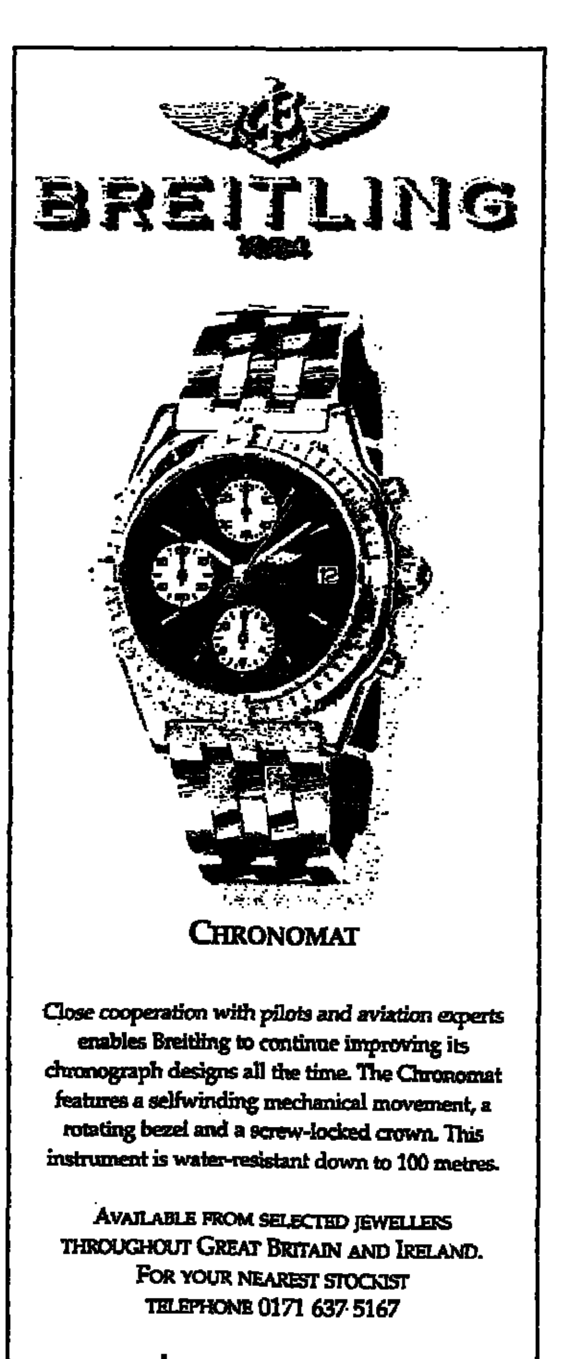

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John shirks his homework and gets into a scrape, just like William

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

The sequel to *Just William*, by Richmal Crompton, was published in 1922 and entitled *More William*. Chapter 8, *The May King*, opens with the following passage: "William was frankly bored. School always bored him. He disliked facts, and he disliked being tied down to detail, and he disliked answering questions. As a politician, a great future would have lain before him."

Yesterday afternoon, John was frankly bored. Prime Minister's Questions always bored him. He disliked alleged facts, and disliked being tied down to detail, and disliked answering Questions. As a politician, a troubled future lay before him.

This much we can say of almost any prime minister at any time. Faced with hostile questions, Mr Major has always given the impression of intense resentment, especially when the questions come from the Leader of the Opposition. But, unlike William, John is usually careful with his homework. What was uncharacteristic of the Prime Minister yesterday was to be so ill-prepared.

Tony Blair's inquiry appeared to take him by surprise. This was the more surprising because the Liberal Democrats' Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed) had already asked the question. What, Mr Beith asked Major, lay behind reports that the Government was to cut war pensions?

In startlingly emotional terms, the normally owlish Beith spoke of old soldiers hobbling, limping and wheeling past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day. Had Mr Major "forgotten them already?" Major brushed Beith aside as having been misinformed.

Perhaps he did not expect Mr Blair to choose this subject. The betting had been that the Labour leader would quiz him on his Chancellor's alleged impertinence. Instead, Blair returned to war pensions. He had been scribbling as Beith spoke, redrafting his question in light of Major's reply. Blair's weakness is to rely too often on prefabricated phrasing, but yesterday he thought on his feet. He asked Major the same question.

The Prime Minister generally deals with such queries by throwing back a wealth of technicalities which, if they do not enlighten, succeed at least in stumping us. Yesterday he seemed stumped himself, and tried to patronise Blair by suggesting he was too stupid to understand.

Blair came back with specific questions whose import was *that* the Government's plans for war pensions were callous and underhand. Major ignored *these* questions, lost his temper and called Blair pious.

By now Labour backbenchers were cheering and the Tories looking glum. "The Prime Minister is unable to answer," said the Labour leader. After quoting from an alleged leak, he called the proposals "shabby and mean-minded". He was greeted by a happy roar from his own side — and another when, after Questions, he left the chamber.

Minutes later, the Opposition made it a double when a Labour backbencher, Thomas McAvoy (Glasgow, Rutherglen) asked the question we had expected from Blair about Kenneth Clarke's alleged "boomerang" jibe. The Prime Minister referred to a written denial of this by the Chancellor, but the damage was done — Labour MPs jeering. It was one of Tony Blair's best PM's Questions.

Fans of Richmal Crompton may remember another of the author's characters, Violet Elizabeth Bott. In moments of frustration the little girl, who had a lisp, would simply threaten "to thcream and thcream until I'm thick". Leaving the chamber, the PM looked just as ready to lock himself in his office and thcream and thcream until he was thick.

EU treaty plans to abolish internal frontier controls

From Charles Bremner in Brussels

CONTROLS on internal frontiers in the European Union would be abolished by the next century, under a draft post-Maastricht treaty, but the most explosive issues associated with further integration, including the national veto, are avoided.

As Ireland, which currently holds the EU presidency, tabled its draft, Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, warned Britain that the "hour of truth" was approaching when the EU must decide whether it wants to pursue its goal of integration of turn itself into a "vast free trade zone".

The draft offered no text on extending majority voting, allowing certain states to pursue more rapid integration, or remodelling the Commission. Wide differences exist among all 15 member states on these issues. Noel Dorr, the Irish chairman of the IGC, said "it is widely recognised that these are issues that will eventually have to be settled in a deal at the end. It will be a trade-off, one way or another." The new treaty is subject to unanimity; Britain could veto any of its provisions.

British officials said they were pleased that all Britain's wishes had been cited as options. There was, however, plenty to worry the Government in the draft, which reflects the desire of a majority of states to move, albeit cautiously, towards deeper political union. The most immediate problem is a draft revision of the Maastricht treaty to abolish internal frontier controls and apply a common policing of external frontiers, including immigration, visas and asylum within a year of the treaty's completion.

The union has been pledged to such action since the Treaty of Rome in 1957 but a core group of member states have only begun implementing it, outside the treaty.

The draft envisages turning the EU into an "area of freedom, security and justice" by January 1, 2001. A section, which Ireland acknowledged as unacceptable to several states, calls for the EU to harmonise its justice systems to assist common policing and prevent conflicts of jurisdiction. In a suggestion unacceptable to Britain, it also envisages a boost to the powers of Europol, the fledgling police agency and of the European Court of Justice. Britain, however, is content with proposals for intensifying direct co-operation between European police forces.

On social affairs, Ireland noted that all 14 other states wanted an end to Britain's opt-out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty, but it said the issue should be dealt with later. This was a clear reference to the possibility of a Labour winning office and signing the social chapter.

The draft treaty also envisages the creation of an employment chapter committing states to economic policies that promote high employment.

On foreign policy the draft proposes machinery for increasing Europe's international influence, much of it acceptable to Britain, with the appointment of a secretary-general to take charge. It retains the veto, but allows for majority voting in certain conditions, provided all states agreed to the principle of the action in question. There is also a proposal for "constructive abstention".

On defence, it recognises the absolute priority of national sovereignty but proposes closer relations with the Western European Union, the European pillar of Nato. Britain and other states are against calls from France and other states to put the WEU under the orders of the EU.

On remodelling the institutions, the Irish noted that states wanted to boost the powers of the European Court while Britain wanted to curb them. It proposed that there be no more than 700 members of the European Parliament. The draft trod carefully on the question of increasing the powers of the European Parliament, a demand of Germany and its federal-minded allies. It said there was a "general willingness" to give parliament more control of law-making, along with the council of member states, and it proposed giving the Strasbourg assembly the right to elect the president of the Commission.

On extending majority voting in EU legislation, a proposal to which Britain is fiercely opposed, Ireland said this could only be decided once EU leaders fixed a "clear political direction".

Federal-minded officials have already criticised the Irish draft as too timid.

Leading article, page 21

Germans shift panic on British food to salmon

By Roger Boyes in Bonn and Michael Hornsby

THE German panic about British food yesterday shifted briefly away from infected beef to Scottish salmon, which researchers said may have been poisoned by neurotoxins.

Fish experts in Hamburg said that Scottish salmon breeders had been using the poison Ivermectin to kill sea lice, which settle on the scales of the fish. The chemical is widely used against cow, sheep and horse parasites but can damage fish and is indissoluble, according to a newsletter from the Federal German Fish Research Agency.

The newsletter alleged that British salmon farms were getting around restrictions on marine use of the chemical by keeping small herds of sheep. The German press complained that farmers who used the chemical illegally were given only token punishment: one was fined £500. *Die Zeit* claimed that the 1974 Control of Pollution Act has been amended to allow release of Ivermectin into open waters.

Salmon farmers reacted angrily to the claims. William Crowe, chief executive of the Scottish Salmon Growers' Association, said: "The German reports are scurrilous and false and we are taking legal advice." The farmers are allowed to use Ivermectin to control sea lice under strict conditions provided they get consent. Only four of the 343 farms have such consent.

Ministry of Agriculture tests found traces of Ivermectin in 10 per cent of salmon sampled in 1995, but Scottish farmers said that the tests did not distinguish between home-reared and imported salmon, which accounts for a fifth of all salmon sold in Britain. Irish, Canadian and Norwegian salmon farmers have used Ivermectin.

Sifiso Masango: his earlier flight was cancelled

Zulu boy heads home after flight delay

By Inigo Gilmore and Joanna Bale

THE Zulu boy at the centre of a custody dispute between his parents and his white foster mother was due to arrive back in Britain last night after an unexpected delay.

Sifiso Masango, 10, flew from Johannesburg alone yesterday morning after spending the night at an airport hotel because of the cancellation of Wednesday's South African Airways flight to London. "I'm happy to be going," he said.

Waiting for him in London was Salome Stopford, the woman who brought him up and had wanted to adopt him, but who was forced by the courts to return him to his parents in South Africa. His father, Charles Mahlangu, said his son had a return ticket for January 5, but would stay in London if Mrs Stopford agreed to sign legal documents guaranteeing twice-yearly visits to South Africa.

He said he had managed to win over his wife, who had opposed Sifiso's return. "It is where he wanted to be. I can't tell him, 'I don't want you to go back.' I love him and I want to do what is best for him."

Howard unveils good citizenship awards

The first good citizenship awards in memory of Philip Lawrence, the headmaster murdered in London, will be given in 12 months, Michael Howard announces today. The Home Secretary says the formal launch of the Philip Lawrence Memorial Awards will be in March, when examples of good citizenship will be used to show how young people can qualify.

In an article in *The Times*, Mr Howard says the awards will complement various schemes already in existence. He appeals for voluntary and youth groups to help to develop his ideas. "I hope the scheme will play a part in helping to raise the next generation of good citizens." Awards, page 20

Harassment curbs

Violent and noisy neighbours face up to five years in jail under a government Bill to curb harassment, published yesterday. Stalkers and people who practise racial abuse will also be curbed by the new measures. The Home Office said that once the Protection from Harassment Bill came into force it would lead to an additional 200 criminal cases a year in England and Wales.

Abbott article studied

Comments by Diane Abbott on "blonde, blue-eyed" Finnish nurses are being studied by Scotland Yard under laws designed to prevent racial hatred. The Labour MP's article criticising a hospital that recruited Scandinavian nurses has led to two official complaints to Hackney police. The complaints have been passed to the Metropolitan Police's community relations officers.

Wheelchair lift accident

Susan Downs, 20, the pregnant fiancée of Richard Powell, the former British paralympics athlete, was in intensive care after being trapped against the ceiling by his wheelchair lift at their home in Rhymney, South Wales. She was trying to mend the lift, which had been installed by the local council. Her condition was described as stable.

Computer licence fee

Owners of personal computers may have to pay for a BBC licence fee in the same way as a television, senior corporation executives suggested to MPs on the National Heritage Committee. John Birt, the Director-General and Sir Christopher Bland, the Chairman, said technological changes would mean programmes being watched on PCs.

Citizenship for Charlton

Jack Charlton, the former Republic of Ireland soccer manager, will be made an honorary Irish citizen tomorrow, becoming only the eighth foreigner to receive the accolade. Charlton, who took the Irish national team to the last eight of the 1994 World Cup, receives his citizenship for his "distinguished service to the nation".

Duchess of Kent ill

Continued from page 1

nothing too serious; she is just rather tired in general terms," her spokesman said, adding: "Rather than let people down if she agreed to carry out an engagement and was then wiped out on the day in question, she felt it better not to accept in the first place."

The Duchess has not been seen in public since July, when she made her annual appearance at the Wimbledon tennis championships and attended the Royal Tournament at Earl's Court. Since the loss of her babies the Duchess has often appeared in frail health, but has continued her charity work, particularly for the Samaritans, for whom she has often manned a helpline switchboard for the depressed and the suicidal.

Two years ago, in a surprise move, the Duchess converted to Roman Catholicism. Born Katharine Worsley, she married the Duke of Kent in York Minister in 1961, but her change of religion was not regarded as presenting a constitutional issue since her place in line of succession to the Throne is remote.

The Duke of Kent is eighteenth in line, and retains his Anglican faith. The couple have three children of whom the eldest, the Earl of St Andrews, married a Canadian Roman Catholic divorcée in 1988.

A report by three Royal medical colleges on chronic fatigue syndrome, commissioned by Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's chief medical officer, and published in October, said it was a real condition but that it was unhelpful to make a distinction between bodily and psychological illness. Treatment consists of graded exercise programmes in which patients are set gradually more difficult targets. These can be combined with therapy.

Patients can be helped by positive medical approach

By Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE Duchess of Kent's illness will excite the sympathy of everybody who admires her wonderful record of public service. Her illness has been diagnosed as chronic fatigue syndrome: the term ME, which was already falling into disrepute in medical circles, was finally dispatched in October by the joint report of the Royal Colleges of Physicians, Psychiatrists and General Practitioners.

Chronic fatigue syndrome, which is a very real illness devoid of any suggestion of malingering, is characterised by a variety of symptoms, many of them physical. The condition, which can be disabling, can be triggered by a wide variety of factors, both physical and mental. The report of the royal colleges described how in the overwhelming majority of cases independent doctors were able to show that the sufferers of chronic fatigue syndrome had the signs and symptoms of other psychiatric disease; not all of those psychiatric troubles could be described as disorders of mood, whether chronic depression or mania.

Many doctors are concerned lest a diagnosis of chronic fatigue syndrome hinders the necessary psychiatric treatment. There is also evidence, presented by the royal colleges, that a belief firmly held by the patient that chronic fatigue syndrome is a distinct disease hinders the patient's recovery. In many cases the patient's relatives may encourage the patient in this destructive belief.

Absolute rest, which in the past has been advocated for sufferers of ME, can lead to further weakness and it is not recommended that chronic fatigue syndrome should be treated in that way. Patients are helped by a doctor's positive approach to their plight and should endeavour to keep going by taking rather more exercise each passing day.

If the Duchess of Kent does have any underlying psychiatric condition it would provide a good opportunity for a respected role model to give encouragement to the hundreds of thousands of psychiatric patients whose problems at the moment are often misunderstood by their friends, work mates and even family.

Pensions leak triggers row

Continued from page 1

whose hearing was damaged during military service. In future, based on independent medical advice, war pensioners will not be compensated for subsequent deterioration of hearing.

But organisations representing the deaf were astonished and gave a warning that it could stop people seeking compensation for deafness caused by other ways.

The leaked proposals show that Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, plans to save, over three years from next year, £15 million, £35 million, then £50 million. Part of the savings will come from simplifying the system, including cuts in the war pension mobility supplement, and the widows rent allowance.

The rest comes from the restrictions on hearing benefits, expected to affect 10,000 people a year. A letter from Mr Lilley says both he and the rest of his ministerial team opposed that measure but had little choice: the Government was under a legal obligation to accept the medical advice.

The Royal British Legion, the Officers' Pensions Society and other ex-service organisations attended a meeting yesterday of the Central Advisory Committee on War Pensions, at which Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, Minister of State at the Department of Social Security, outlined the reforms.

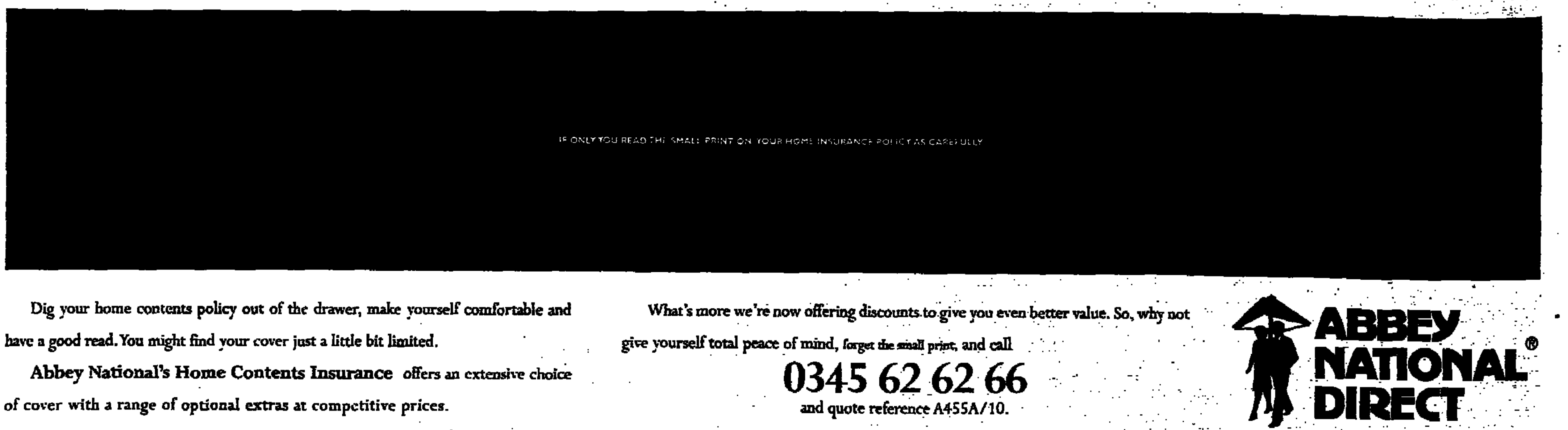
The Royal British Legion said: "This is not an attempt by the Government to cut war pensions. They'll save some money just by not writing to war pensioners every four years reminding them of their entitlement to a new assessment ... That will save postage, but we keep in touch with these ex-servicemen anyway."

Captain Robin Marks, assistant general secretary of the Officers' Pensions Society, said it viewed the proposed reforms positively, adding: "We don't see any sinister plot to reduce the scope of war pensions. We have no objection to most of them."

Mr Mackay said the widows' rent allowance was largely obselete and while it would be abolished, existing claimants would not be affected.

He seeks to scrap rank distinction when assessing war disablement gratuities — one-off tax-free lump sums given to veterans with less than 20 per cent disability. It will set at the rank of major.

The war pensions scheme began in 1947. There are 265,275 pensioners worldwide, and 57,497 war widows. A pensioner gets from £21 to almost £300 a week — but must prove service life caused the damage.



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Children's attacker 'wanted to get even' for teasing

By Richard Duce

AN UNEMPLOYED welder attacked a nursery class with a machete as a way of "getting even" with society after children teased him, Stafford Crown Court was told yesterday.

Horrett Campbell, 33, told police he had become tired of being called a loser by children in Wolverhampton and planned his attack a month before injuring three children and four adults last July as they had a teddy bears' picnic.

After his arrest, Campbell was asked by detectives to explain his thoughts as he carried out the attack at St Luke's Infants school and told them that he felt the school had been partly responsible for recent troubles in his life. "They haven't done anything personally but they've contributed to the pressures I've had by jeering at me. They tease me, the kids at school. They just say things like I'm a loser and a failure and that."

Campbell, who lived in a flat overlooking the school, denies seven counts of attempted murder but has admitted lesser wounding charges.

In his interviews with police Campbell was said to have described leaving his flat with a machete concealed inside a bag. He told police he had also carried a kitchen knife, a washing-up liquid bottle full of petrol and two metal rods covered in foam, along with a lighter in his pocket. The petrol and rods were to be used as flamethrowers.

"I had the machete in my hand. I attacked some people using the machete, just anyone."

Asked why he kept photographs of the Dunblane killer Thomas Hamilton and of Martin Bryant, who killed 35 people in Tasmania, Campbell said that he felt an affinity with both men. "I see myself having difficulties and being sort of victimised and pressurised. So I think of sort of sharing the pressure with other people and attacking some people like I did."

Earlier yesterday a parent, Philippa Parlor, described how she had hidden in a toy cupboard at the school with her children as Campbell went on the rampage. She said Campbell was slashing at children with his machete as if "cutting corn".

"He came over the nursery fence to the children and started chasing the children around. It was like watching chickens running around in a pen because the children didn't have anywhere to go and didn't know what to do. They were just trying to run away and he was trying to hit the children."

The trial continues.

MP's mother joins critics of plan to 'keep greys away'

By Andrew Pierce
Political Correspondent

Nicholson: his mother thinks he's "a bit silly"

A TORY MP who yesterday advocated a ban on pensioners retiring to the West Country to ease the rural housing crisis was immediately attacked by his own supporters, including his mother.

David Nicholson himself moved to Devon from London ten years ago. His 82-year-old mother, Lucy, who retired to a North Wales beauty spot 20 years ago, said she would hate to live in a town — "most pensioners would".

Leading Tories in Mr Nicholson's Taunton constituency, the majority of whom collected their bus passes years ago, were dismayed by their MP's intervention. During a Commons debate, Mr Nicholson, 52, urged the authorities to keep away the "greys" who were moving in in increasing numbers, because the charms of the countryside were disappearing under concrete.

He said he was familiar with the problem of elderly folk choosing to spend their last years in remote beauty spots. His mother, Lucy, had retired to north Wales. "And very nice it is too," Mrs Nicholson said last night. "I am sitting in my pensioner's bungalow, on a clifftop in Anglesey, looking at snow covered hills. It's beautiful."

She said she would object to any MP, even her own son, trying to stop her moving if she wanted to. "We should be allowed to go where we want. David is a good chap, but he is being a bit silly about this."

Jim Dunkley, 71, the Mayor of Taunton who moved to the area from Berkshire when he retired as a school headmaster eight years ago, agreed. "David Nicholson should pack his bags and go back to the London concrete jungle he came from. I moved here when I retired and resent any suggestion that I have sat half asleep in a rocking chair and not made any valid contribution to local society."

Mr Nicholson, who lives at East Anstey, in his constituency, said: "I am trying to highlight a serious point. The grey wave moving into the South West may destroy the very facilities which attract retired people to the South West in the first place. I am not saying old people who live there should be moved out. I am merely suggesting that at some point in the future we may have to restrict their rights to move in."

Somerset County Council has earmarked land for 44,000 new homes by 2011. The number of pensioners in the county is estimated at 103,000 in a population of 470,000, which is 3.5 per cent above the national average. Thousands of the pensioners live in Mr Nicholson's marginal constituency.

Major Gilbert Lamb, 72, the president of Taunton Conservative Association, said: "Border controls for pensioners in Somerset is not a feasible or popular idea. The elderly are among our core voters. I don't think banning them from Somerset is the answer."

Estate agents, who are experiencing the first tentative signs of recovery in the housing market, were not impressed either. Robert Morton, spokesman for Stags, said that the majority of sales were to people moving into the area. "It's piffle. No one in their right mind, except some high principled idiot, is going to say that they are not going to sell someone their house unless they come from Somerset."

EBB AND FLOW OF POPULATION

Migration from cities is accelerating and population growth is now greatest in rural areas at least 40 miles from a large town, a report published today says. London has seen the biggest decline since 1980, with the population falling by 628,000, close to the 648,000 total for the seven other main metropolitan areas. The 30-44 age group was especially keen to leave towns, seeking a better life for their children. Professor Tony Champion based his study on census figures and NHS records. He said: "People tend to move progressively from city centres to suburbs and then into the countryside. This is not so much a cascade from the cities as a downpour." The report was prepared for the Economic and Social Research Council.

Fake nanny vanished with baby she claimed was ill

By Joanna Bale

A WOMAN who posed as a qualified nanny but was described by her employers as "every parent's nightmare" was jailed yesterday. She had telephoned the couple to say that their baby son was seriously ill and then disappeared with him on a 120-mile trip in their car.

James and Annie McConnel called for a national register of qualified nannies and a system of police checks after Sarah Langford, 23, was jailed for six weeks for deception.

She had gained their confidence by offering a fake reference and boasting of false Nursery Nurse Education Board qualifications. Mr McConnel, a composer of Billingford, Norfolk, employed Langford, from Norwich, after she appeared "friendly and bubbly" and well qualified to look after their 17-month-old son Freddie.

Mrs McConnel, a cartoonist for *Country Life*, said yesterday: "Two weeks later she phoned to say he had been projectile-vomiting at his playgroup, so we rang the doctor straight away, telling him to expect her, but when we called the doctor again she had not been.

"She finally turned up at 7.30pm and swore she had been to the doctor, who had said the baby should be starved for 24 hours. She was so believable that we rang the surgery to tell them off."

Langford admitted deception and taking the car, and asked for 13 other offences of deception, involving lying to other employers and stealing a credit card from a friend, to be considered.

Mr McConnel said: "I think the sentence is scandalous because she will be out of prison in a matter of weeks. She is seriously ill and needs help. When she is released there she could get another job with children again."

MARC ASPLAND

Gwen Randall, head of Framlingham College, was accused of inappropriate dress

Pupil expelled as mother criticises head's clothing

By A Staff Reporter

A BOY has been expelled from a public school after his mother clashed with the head, who is the first woman to take charge of a Headmasters' Conference school.

Olivia Boland criticised clothing worn by the head, Gwen Randall, and questioned the sums spent by the school on renovating her home. Mrs Boland is considering seeking an injunction to force Framlingham College, Suffolk, to reinstate her son Richard, 16, so that he can complete his A levels.

The boy won a scholarship to the 700-pupil school, which charges £9,270 a year. He was expelled on Saturday when his mother declined to withdraw him after the head said that their relationship had irretrievably broken down.

Mrs Boland, 41, of Stowmarket, Suffolk, blamed the dispute on a letter she sent to governors. She wrote that other parents had told her that Mrs Randall had been seen shopping in shorts and a top that might be considered revealing. She also questioned the money being spent on Mrs Randall's home. When asked to sign an undertaking not to make similar allegations, Mrs Boland declined.

"I believe a head should command a certain respect from her pupils, but this was not happening with Mrs Randall," she said. "I do not think it is right that the breakdown of a relationship between two adults should be used as a reason for expulsion."

Mrs Randall, who is married with a teenage daughter, became head of the college in 1993. This made her the first woman member of the Headmasters' Conference, which represents the heads of 230 public schools.

John Clement, chairman of the governors, said there was "no substance at all" in Mrs Boland's complaints. Bob Wright, the school's solicitor, said: "It is sad that the pupil is the one to suffer.

£500,000 Barings bonus ruled out

By Robert Miller

A FORMER Barings executive yesterday lost her case to be paid a £500,000 bonus that she claimed had been promised the day before the merchant bank collapsed.

An industrial tribunal ruled that Mary Walz's bonus was based on the assumption that the profits on which it was calculated were real. But the profits were bogus, generated by the fraudulent trading activities of Nick Leeson in the Far East money markets. The proposed bonus took no account of the enormous losses that brought down Britain's oldest merchant bank.

ING, the Dutch banking and insurance group that rescued Barings for a nominal £1 and cleared its £830 million debt, was under no legal or contractual obligation to pay the bonus, the tribunal at Stratford, east London, said.

Ms Walz, who was global head of equity products at Barings, had claimed that she should have been paid the bonus even after the bank collapsed. She faces possible disciplinary action by a City watchdog over her role in supervising Mr Leeson, who worked for Barings Derivative Trading in Singapore.

Civil servant cleared of blinding JP

By Paul Wilkinson

A CIVIL servant was cleared yesterday of seriously injuring a magistrate who was having an affair with his wife.

A jury at York Crown Court found Stephen Coles, a senior Benefits Agency official, not guilty of inflicting grievous bodily harm. Tim Burrell, 49, a senior Inland Revenue officer, lost the sight of his right eye from a single blow by Mr Coles, 48, who said he had acted in self-defence during a confrontation over his wife Jill, 42.

Mrs Coles had left her husband, taking their two children to a house in Harrogate, North Yorkshire. Mr Coles toured the town looking for them and saw Mr Burrell's car outside the house. When he tried to go in, Mr Burrell barred his way and gripped him by the throat.

Mr Coles said: "I brought my hands up to try to twist his hand off my neck. I was intending to hit him to get him off, but I didn't know where the blow would land."

Mr Burrell, of Knaresborough, had 46 stitches to his injured eye during a four-hour operation, but surgeons could not save it.

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PARIS

Prev. Train No.	New Train No.	Orig. Waterloo departure	New Waterloo departure	New Ashford departure
9078	9078	05.08	05.50	06.53
9002	9004	06.19	06.57	07.57
9006	9008	07.23	07.53	08.53
9010	9012	08.23	08.57	09.57
9012	9012	08.53	08.57	09.57
9018	9016	10.23	09.53	-
9024	9024	11.57	11.57	12.57
9028	9028	12.53	12.53	13.53
9032	9032	13.57	13.57	-
-	9036	-	14.57	-
9038	9040	15.23	15.53	-
9042	9044	16.23	16.48	17.57
9046	9048	17.15	17.48	-
9048	9048	17.48	17.48	-
9052	9052	18.53	18.57	19.57

BRUSSELS

Prev. Train No.	New Train No.	Orig. Waterloo departure	New Waterloo departure	New Ashford departure
9110	9110	06.53	06.53	07.53
9116	9118	08.27	08.53	09.53
9120	9186	09.27	09.57	10.57
9124	9130	10.27	11.53	12.53
9132	9142	12.27	14.53	-*
9140	9142	14.23	14.53	-
9152	9152	17.19	17.19	-
9156	9158	18.27	18.53	19.54

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Residents say street name is too close for comfort

By Robin Young

ALL nine households in a suburban cul-de-sac are demanding that the name of their enclave be changed because they consider it too low-class, despite the fact that it was named after a former Lord Mayor of London.

The aggrieved residents of Skinner Close have signed a petition complaining that the name is inappropriately downmarket. The Skinner part they consider ugly, while the term Close, they say, reminds them of Scottish tenement blocks.

Houses in the tree-lined turning are worth between £130,000 and £170,000. Their biggest problem may be not that they are in Skinner Close, but that Skinner Close is in Crawley, West Sussex, a location whose name seems specifically designed to make the flesh creep.

Valerie Hutton, whose husband, Peter, organised the petition, said: "I know it seems a little snobbish, but Skinner Close does not seem fitting for this type of property. There are nine properties and not one of us likes it."

Mandy Fard, another unhappy resident, said: "It just seems ugly." Her neighbour, Helen Holt, added: "Skinner conjures up thoughts of skinning animals, and Scottish families on the road say a close was a tenement, which hardly seems appropriate." The fact that closes are, in England, more commonly associated with cathedrals appears to be lost on them.

Crawley council at first gave the residents a list of other mayors whose names they might prefer, but later decided not to entertain the idea of changing the name of Skinner Close, which has been known as such since September 1994. Councillor Chris Mullins said: "This is all about snobbery," while Councillor Jacqui Weller feared that, if Skinner Close won a name change, the town hall would be deluged with similar appeals.

The residents have suggested that the cul-de-sac be named Birchwood, combining the names of Lord Mayors Birch and Wood.

Pope scolds Carey over ordination of women priests

From Richard Owen in Rome

THE Pope yesterday told the Archbishop of Canterbury in a blunt discussion on women priests that only he had authority "as the successor to St Peter" to lay down doctrine.

Dr George Carey replied that the Church of England was entitled to make its own decisions, despite "obstacles seen by some as obtruding themselves into the path of swift progress toward full and visible unity". He said that Anglicans and Roman Catholics had to "affirm each other's integrity, knowing that decisions will sometimes be made which we ourselves find difficult".

The decision by the Church of England in 1992 to ordain women priests deeply angered the Vatican, which last year said that there was no scriptural authority for ordaining women since Christ had only male disciples. It decreed that the ban on women priests was "infallible and for all time". The two sides are also at odds over papal primacy, although last year the Pope offered to seek "an accommodation" in the interests of ecumenism.

Speaking in slow and heavily accented English, the Pope agreed with Dr Carey that "some of the fruits" of the Anglican-Catholic dialogue begun 30 years ago had started to emerge. A "real, though imperfect, communion" existed in a "new spirit of co-operation". But there were "new areas of disagreement ... which sadly loom large on the way to the reconciliation the dialogue was intended to promote".

He added emphatically: "My particular responsibility as the successor to Peter for the faith and unity of the Church *leads me to invite my* brothers and sisters of the Anglican Communion to reflect on the motives and reasons for the positions I have expressed in the exercise of my teaching office."

One Vatican official described this as "a straight-from-the-shoulder rebuke". But Dr Carey said there was a "remarkable degree of theological and ecclesiastical convergence" between Anglican and Catholics and that the ecumenical dialogue must continue.

The controversy struck a chilly note in an otherwise cordial visit. The Pope smiled and joked with Dr Carey and his wife Eileen, whose constant presence at the Archbishop's side has been criticised by the Italian press. *La Repubblica* said that Mrs Carey's presence was a deliberate affront to the Vatican, which is *opposed to married male* priests, except in a few exceptional circumstances such as married clergy converting from other denominations.

But the Pope thanked Mrs Carey "for being here". He later joined the archbishop for a colourful vespers service at the Church of San Gregorio al Celio, which houses the marble throne from which Pope Gregory I sent St Augustine to Britain 1,400 years ago. In an unusual symbolic gesture, the Pope invited Dr Carey to wear the full panoply of archbishop's cope and mitre.

The two leaders, whose *talks continued over an* unscheduled lunch, issued a "common declaration" urging reconciliation for the year 2000 after a "second Christian millennium, now in its closing years, which has seen division and even open strife between Christians".

But it added: "The obstacle to reconciliation caused by the ordination of women as priests and bishops in some provinces of the Anglican communion has created a new situation". It "might be opportune" to review the Anglican-Catholic dialogue and "to consult further about how our relationship is to progress".

Anglican officials denied this meant the dialogue was stalled. Dr Carey said it was "a sign of how far we have come that difficulties can be debated without resorting to polemic". But both sides should acknowledge the "*enormous strengths women* bring to the Christian mission". The decision to ordain women priests was not fully accepted in Anglicanism, he said, and could still be reversed. But this was unlikely, since it was "going from strength to strength".

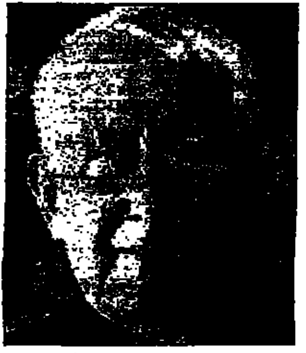
Dr Carey said the "hurts and wounds" of the past 450 years could not be healed overnight. But he asked Catholics to understand that for Anglicans and Lutherans, who had recently entered into intercommunion, the Reformation was "not so much a tragedy as a rediscovery of the Bible, of justification by faith, of the local church and of priesthood". Dr Carey is making the first offical visit to Rome by an Archbishop of Canterbury for seven years.

GIULIO BROGLIO / REUTER

The Archbishop and the Pope at the Vatican for private talks yesterday

Letters, page 21

Hume calls campaigners on moral questions to order


Hume: obedience urged

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

CARDINAL BASIL HUME, Archbishop of Westminster, yesterday issued a firm instruction to Roman Catholics campaigning for more liberal attitudes on issues such as priestly celibacy, women priests and birth control, to obey the authority of the Pope.

The possibility of women priests, he said, "has clearly been ruled out by the Holy Father, and should therefore have no place in a Catholic document". He made it clear that the Church's teaching on priestly celibacy, birth control and other moral issues must also be obeyed. He also appealed for "docility to the mind of the Magisterium", the teaching authority of the Catholic Church.

Cardinal Hume issued his statement to the organisers of a conference of self-styled "reformers" called the Jubilee People, a coalition of Catholic groups. At the conference tomorrow, British Catholics on the Church's liberal wing will issue a declaration calling for changes in policy on women's ordination, celibacy and sexual morality, insisting that the conscience of the individual should become the prime arbiter of behaviour.

Cardinal Hume issued a four-page response to the conference organisers, who claim to have collected 2.3 million signatures from Catholics in Austria and Germany in support of their reforms. In his statement, reported in tomorrow's *Tablet*, Cardinal Hume says exploration and discussion are important and necessary. But he makes it clear that where the Church's teaching has been set out unambiguously, it must be followed.

While not seeking to exclude people from the Church, and believing that Catholics, like all people, must follow their consciences, he is adamant that a conscience is more than a matter of personal opinion or desire. "The teaching of the Church on moral questions must be known and accepted," Cardinal Hume says.

He queries demands that the Church must "affirm" all people, whatever sexual orientation and marital status and whether or not they have left the priesthood. "Of course we must always have respect and concern for individuals ... But to affirm a person must not include condoning actions contrary to the teaching of the Church."

Studies say cormorant is not the enemy of anglers

By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent

CORMORANTS are causing far less damage to fish stocks than many anglers believe, according to unpublished research by government-backed scientists.

It was disclosed on Wednesday that militant fishermen have been shooting and poisoning the protected species because they believe it is ruining their sport. But several rivers allegedly depleted by cormorants in fact have a healthy stock of fish for sport, according to preliminary results of the studies.

Scientists from Liverpool John Moores University and the University of Hull said that the birds often fed on fry, rather than the large fish prized by anglers, and sticklebacks and other non-sport species.

A spokesman for the Environment Agency, which is supporting the research with the Department of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, said yesterday that at some sites it appeared that "the birds are simply better at catching fish than the anglers".

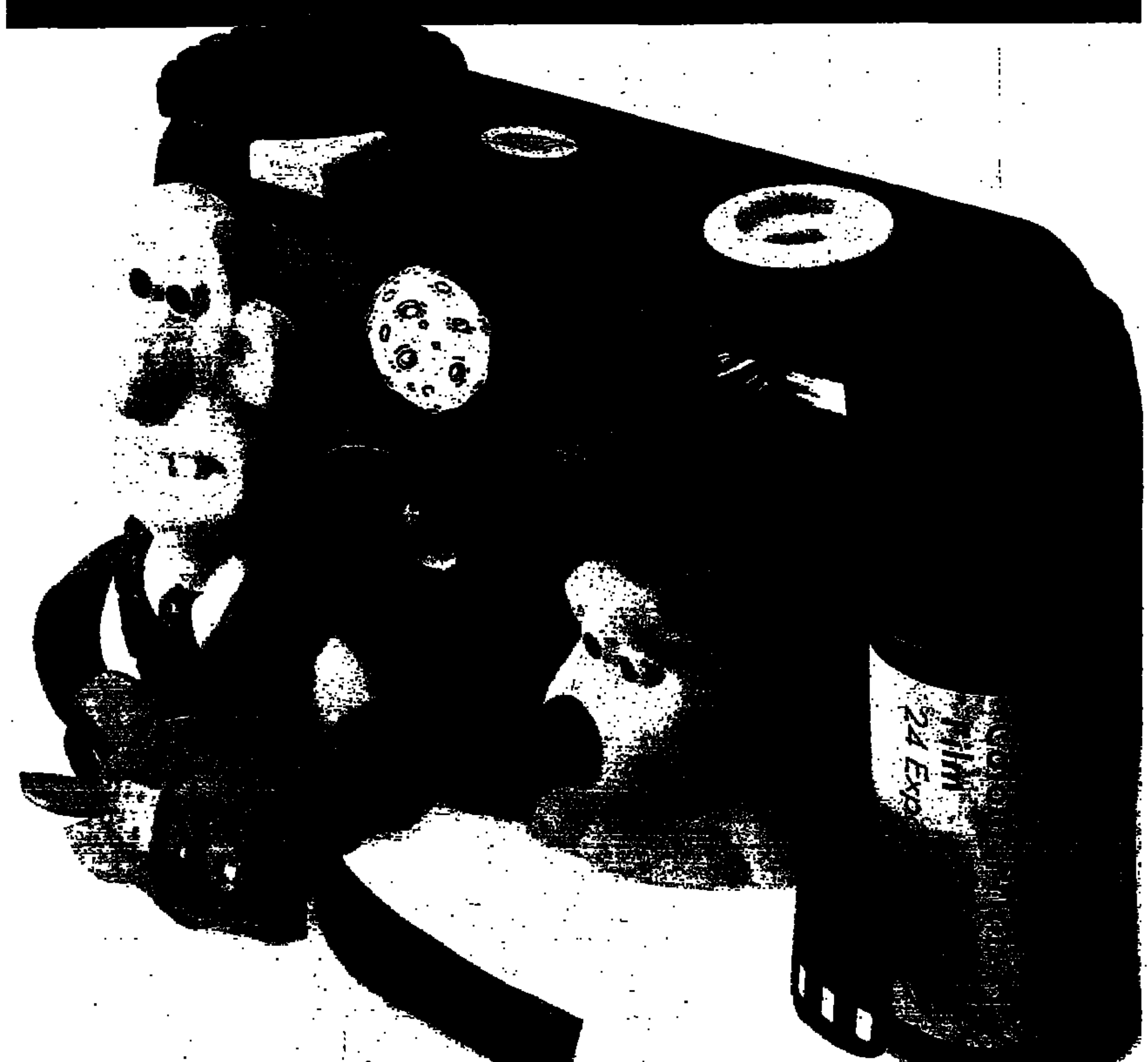
The birds can be shot under licence from the Ministry of Agriculture if anglers prove that they are depleting fish stocks, but militant anglers have been shooting them illegally because they say that it is difficult to get a licence. The penalty is a fine of up to £1,000 for each bird killed.

Andrew Tyler, director of the animal rights group Animal Aid, condemned the shootings yesterday and said that angling was attracting increasing attention from campaigners. "To shoot birds just because they are trying to feed themselves on the fish that anglers want to take for pleasure is utterly perverse and unacceptable in a civilised culture," he said.

Several fishing organisations, including the Salmon and Trout Association, have been sent envelopes containing razor blades and anti-angling slogans recently.

Simon Barnes, page 19

Make someone happy this Christmas



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British Museum urged to charge for admission

By Jon Ashworth

THE trustees of the British Museum are to meet this weekend to discuss the implications of a damning report on the museum's internal practices.

Swingeing job cuts and a £5 entrance fee are among options proposed in the report, which paints a picture of an archaic institution riddled with inefficiencies. Sir David Attenborough, the broadcaster and naturalist, is among 25 trustees due to gather on Saturday to discuss the future of the museum, which faces an increasing funding deficit. Government grants are being reduced and the museum is to lose its annual contribution from the British Library in 1998.

Faced with growing pressures, the museum commissioned a report from Andrew Edwards, a former deputy secretary in the Treasury. While not binding, his report makes damning reading. He portrays an institution in which decisions are avoided, jobs are protected and half the employees are off sick.

He recommends the introduction of a £5 or £6 admission fee, which would raise £8 million a year, together with severe job cuts and the use of television cameras to replace many of the warders. The museum employs nearly 1,200 warders, curators and administrative staff. About 20 per cent, or 240 jobs, could be under threat. The British Museum has an annual budget approaching £50 million, including funding grant, donations and income from retail activities.

Mr Edwards says in his report: "Many staff have remained in the same post for many years and redundancies have been virtually unknown." The museum, he says, will have to adopt a private-sector approach to staffing. He singles out the museum's "extremely generous" entitlement to sick pay and urges a more active management of sickness absence. There should also be "a greater willingness to terminate the employment of staff who cannot deliver what the museum requires of them".

Finances are in disarray. The museum does not employ accountants, relying instead on former senior servants. Mr Edwards proposes the introduction of a finance director, supported by strict financial controls. He says: "A particular problem with the museum is that, with only limited exceptions, no one knows what individual programmes really cost." He says department heads should be given their own budgets.

On decision-making, Mr Edwards says: "The avoidance of bad publicity is seen as the most important element in public relations. Decision-making tends to be inhibited by fears of bad publicity."

Mr Edwards concludes that the museum faces large and increasing deficits if corrective action is not taken. He predicts a shortfall of £25 million during the next three years and urges charging admission as soon as possible.

The trustees are under no obligation to act on the recommendations but are likely to concede that financial management must be tightened. Staff costs account for more than 80 per cent of the annual total but includes pension contributions. As one source said: "Museum people tend to live a long time."

The museum said that this weekend's meeting was routine and would not necessarily result in radical action. A spokesman said: "The British Museum is proud of its tradition of free admission and would wish to preserve it."

Leading article, page 21

Laurence Olivier as the cinema's Henry V

Once more unto the breach, an Olivier

By Damian Whitworth

ADRIAN BROOKS

Richard Olivier at the Globe, where he will direct *Henry V*: "king and chameleon — echoes of my father"

THE Globe Theatre is to open formally next summer with a nostalgic double act of Henry V and a young man called Olivier.

The Shakespearean play that Laurence Olivier made into a classic wartime film is to be directed by his son Richard as part of the first season at the recreated Elizabethan theatre on the banks of the Thames at Southwark.

Richard, 35, the son of Sir Laurence, later Lord, Olivier and Joan Plowright, said it was inevitable that his father's figure would loom large over the production. "One of the last things he ever did was to record the prologue to the play for Sam Wanamaker when he was trying to raise money to build the theatre. He was too ill to go out but he put all his energy into it and it was played at a meeting." The prologue features the famous description of the theatre as a wooden O.

Richard Olivier has been running workshops on the play as part of the theatre's education programme and is planning to work with City business leaders to explore the play's theme of leadership. "What strikes me on a personal note is that the play is about a king who is not just a hero but an actor. A man of many faces, like a chameleon. There are echoes of my father. But my father was almost too close to the character that he couldn't see it.

"He loved the play. He loved doing it and he was full of stories of filming it in Ireland, falling off his horse and being shot in the legs by arrows. Henry V was the ideal king who pulled together diverse groups of people for a cause greater than any one individual, which is the perfect metaphor for what has happened in building this theatre."

Olivier's production will feature Mark Rylance, the theatre's artistic director, in the title role. The production, with Elizabethan costumes, will run in tandem with a modern dress version of *The Winter's Tale*, directed by David Freeman, which will officially open the theatre in June. Two plays by contemporaries of Shakespeare, to be announced, will join the repertory in August.

The opening productions will bring to fruition a project that Wanamaker first dreamt of in 1949. He established the Globe Playhouse Trust in 1970 but died in 1993 when construction work had barely begun. Last summer the semi-completed theatre staged workshop productions.

The play's permanent stage is being constructed from oak in an aircraft hangar at Greenham Common air base, Berkshire, and will be completed with the "tiring house" — dressing rooms — by the spring.

☐ The Globe Theatre season will open with previews on May 27 and run until September 21. The box office will open on March 3. Tickets for standing in the yard, £5; gallery seats, £5-£20.

Theatre reviews, page 37

Teenager is killed while carol singing

By A Staff Reporter

VILLAGERS were yesterday mourning the death of a teenager who was killed by a car while carol singing with his best friend. Flowers and tributes marked the spot where Aaron Crook, 13, was hit. One message read: "I will remember your song for the rest of my life."

The boy is believed to have suddenly stepped into the road as he and Michael Cuddon waited to cross after singing to elderly neighbours in East Hagbourne, Oxfordshire, on Wednesday evening.

Aaron Crook: hit in front of best friend

He died in John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, about an hour later. The three men who were in the car that hit him were said to be very distressed.

The boy's mother, Geraldine Crook, said: "He was carol-singing to raise some pocket money to buy Christmas presents for the family." Ms Crook, 33, had recently moved to a new home with Aaron and her daughter, Kelly, 15.

Fellow pupils at St Birinus School in Didcot were told of the accident yesterday at a special assembly. Chris Bryan, the head teacher, said: "Aaron was a likeable boy who will be sadly missed."

A spokesman for Thames Valley Police said: "The boy was apparently dragged a short distance by the car, having accidentally stepped out in front of it." Police do not expect to charge anyone in connection with the accident.

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Shephard acts to safeguard A levels

English literature and maths examinations to be refocused

By David Charter, education correspondent

GILLIAN SHEPHARD intervened yesterday to safeguard A-level standards after a report showed that the examination's depth and rigour were under threat.

The Education and Employment Secretary detailed a package of measures to refocus the examination and ensure future generations are taught the classics of English literature and master basic arithmetic. Mrs Shephard described the steps to maintain the rigour of public examinations as a matter of "national interest".

The move followed a warning from Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, that more pupils were staying in education longer but learning less.

Government advisers promised there would also be a "cull" of examination boards and the proliferating courses that allowed schools to pick and choose easier papers.

Teachers' leaders said they feared the Government was rushing to turn back the clock without clear evidence of a decline in standards.

Mrs Shephard ordered A-level English to return its focus to the greats of literature, including a requirement that all students cover at least four pre-20th-century set texts. Two of the eight topics to be covered will have to be pre-17th-century authors, including Shakespeare, after government dismay at the disappearance of Chaucer and Milton.

As disclosed in *The Times* yesterday, she announced a series of recommendations in response to the publication of the report by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority and Ofsted, comparing standards in chemistry, English and mathematics between 1975 and 1995. She conceded there was "no hard evidence that standards are falling". But nevertheless she said the report highlighted changes in course content the Government could not accept. "There has been a change in the nature of examinations and given the importance we attach to them as a national currency, it is vital to ensure standards remain steady."

Mrs Shephard commissioned the report after the thirteenth successive rise in A-level pass rates in 1995 and the annual war of words between critics complaining examinations were getting easier and schools defending their pupils' efforts. More than 85 per cent of A-level candidates were successful last summer, compared with 69 per cent in 1975.

Mr Woodhead admitted the report, which took 18 months to prepare, did not provide a clear answer to critics. But he added: "This report is saying to the Government that the danger is that more and more students are going to be educated for longer and longer at greater public expense to know less and less."

Mrs Shephard's measures include:

☐ Increased emphasis on spelling, punctuation and grammar in A-level and GCSE English and a new GCSE in English language from September 1998.

☐ Reduced use of calculators in mathematics at A level and GCSE, including calculator-free papers.

☐ Fewer examination boards and syllabuses.

☐ A national archive of examination papers and scripts.

☐ A rolling review of standards to be extended to other subjects, including French and German.

Sir Ron Dearing, chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, reassured students that their efforts were being genuinely recognised despite the rising pass rates. "The demand on students remained broadly the same. That means they have earned their rewards. But there is absolutely no doubt we need to seek a strengthening in certain of the key elements of English and mathematics," he said.

Mrs Shephard's attack on the exam boards was echoed by David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary. He said: "We must ensure that the rigour of A levels is maintained and it is right to look at reducing the number of examination boards and cutting down the number of syllabuses."

Teachers leaders said they failed to understand the strength of the Government's response given the gaps in evidence and inconclusiveness of the report on standards.

John Dunford, past president of the Secondary Heads Association, said: "It is quite clear from the report that exams today are different but not easier.

"I don't want the clock to be turned back 20 years because the examination curriculum, quite rightly, has changed over 20 years."

Education, page 35

FIONA HANSON

Gillian Shephard: the Government could not accept changes in course content

Inconsistency in courses the main risk to standards

By Our Education Correspondent

THE main threat to A-level and GCSE standards identified by government experts is the wide variation in expectations between examination boards and in syllabuses for pupils studying the same subject.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, said she was "appalled" at the lack of records kept by the six boards and found the inconsistencies between their courses the most worrying feature.

The report, *Standards in Public Examinations 1975 to 1995* found little evidence of declining standards but big changes in the contents of the three subjects analysed at A level and GCSE: chemistry, English and mathematics.

In A-level English, where the pass rate rose from 70.8 per cent to 89.7 per cent, the report found that candidates could choose papers to avoid major authors such as Chaucer. It added: "Most candidates are probably less familiar with the English literary tradition than their predecessors."

In mathematics at A level, where the pass rate went from 65 per cent to 86 per cent, the report said: "Questions are now more structured, guiding candidates on the methods to be used." The level of demand on students was the same.

Chemistry A level, where pass rates increased from 70 per cent to 80 per cent, had reduced slightly in content since 1975, especially in inorganic and physical chemistry.

In English GCSE, no decision could be made on standards because there were no pre-1990 scripts. The report concluded: "The variation of standards in GCSE between boards may be more significant than any change from 1990 to 1995."

Mathematics GCSE had changed with the introduction of topics such as statistics and data handling, but there was less geometry, trigonometry and algebra. It added: "The increase in breadth meant a reduction in depth, so that there is less oportunity for more able candidates to show higher-order skills".

Chemistry GCSE was taken by far fewer candidates after the introduction of the double science GCSE. Candidates were expected to know fewer chemical reactions in detail but expected to do more practical experiments and show knowledge of chemistry in everyday contexts.

Eightfold rise in primary school suspensions

By David Charter

A CRISIS in primary school discipline is masked by official figures, according to a survey showing a huge rise in the number of children suspended or temporarily excluded.

There was a threefold rise in the number of under-12s being banned from their schools between 1991 and 1993, but the true extent of disruptive behaviour is revealed by an eightfold increase in suspensions or temporary exclusions, which head teachers are not obliged to report.

Permanent expulsions at primary schools rose from 378 in 1991-92 to 1,215 in 1992-93, according to researchers at the University of Portsmouth, who studied 265 children in three local authorities. Aggression accounted for just over half of all exclusions, temporary or permanent. Nineteen per cent were for "unacceptable behaviour", 17 per cent for verbal abuse and 16 per cent for disobedience. Nine out of ten excluded pupils were boys.

This confirms the findings of a survey of official figures by *The Times* in May, which showed that violence was the main factor in a fourfold rise in officially reported primary school expulsions from the 378 in 1991-92 to 1,445 in 1994-95.

Eight out of ten of the pupils studied were on the casebooks of specialist agencies, mainly social services. A quarter had officially recognised educational difficulties and 16 per cent were undergoing assessment when they were expelled.

A look at the family backgrounds of 38 excluded children showed that nine out of ten had parents who had either separated or divorced, and six out of ten were from families where there was evidence of neglect, violence or abuse. A similar number lived in households that moved frequently. Nearly half had spent time in care.

The survey was part of a series of studies by the Economic and Social Research Council. Researchers believe that the rise in exclusions may be due to schools trying to hit performance targets despite limited funding for special educational needs.

Dr Carol Haydon, the principal researcher, said: "Exclusion from primary school is usually an act of desperation on the part of a head teacher who knows that a child needs specialist help with their behaviour." She added: "But limited practical support from outside agencies usually means that giving the right help is impossible."

She said that the 1988 Education Reform Act may have made the problem worse, as parents took their children, and the funds that went with them, away from schools that had disruptive pupils. "Difficult children can also make it harder for others to learn, deterring more parents from sending their children to the school. The introduction of league tables for primary schools will exacerbate this problem."

☐ A teacher who allowed a bullied boy to hit his five alleged tormentors with a ruler is facing further disciplinary action. Brenda Davies, 48, has been told to attend an informal meeting with the head teacher of Tennyson Road primary school in Luton on Monday to discuss two new claims against her.

Three weeks ago she was given a final written warning at a disciplinary hearing and told that she would lose her job if she was found guilty of any further breaches of school policy.

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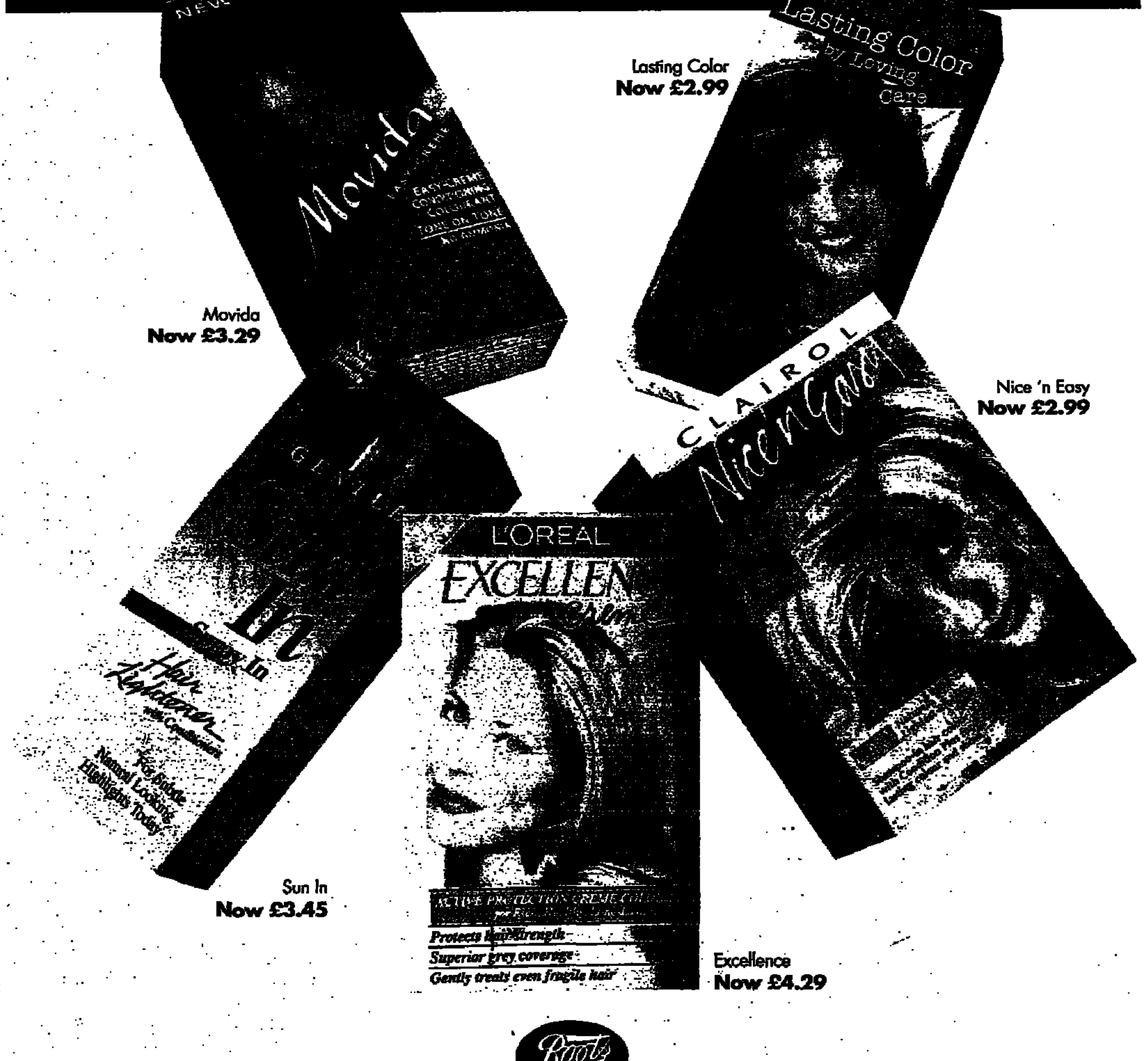
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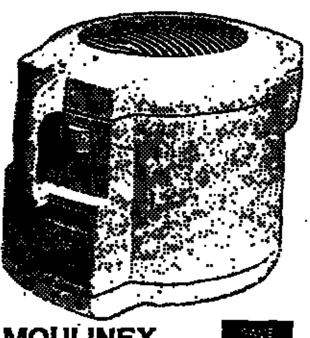

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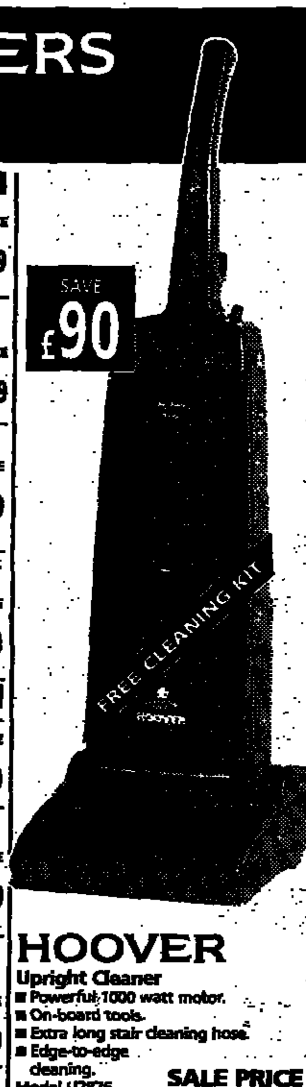

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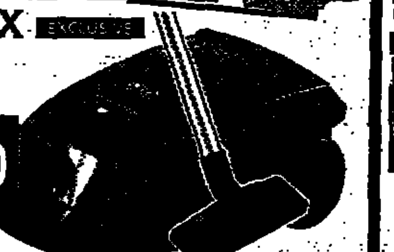

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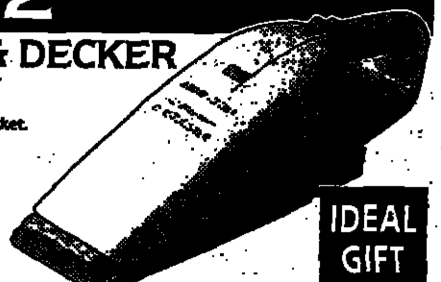

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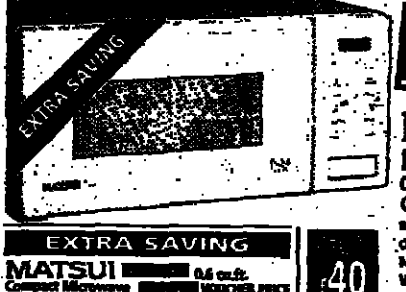

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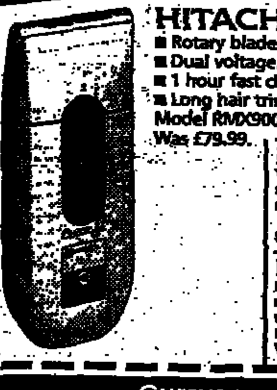

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New safe drinking limits 'a mistake'

By Our Health Correspondent

THE Government came under fire from its former Chief Medical Officer yesterday for raising the safe limits on drinking alcohol.

Sir Donald Acheson, President of the British Medical Association and of Alcohol Concern, also attacked the introduction of alcoholic lemonades, known as alcopops. He said that they could create habitual child drinkers.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, announced a year ago a relaxation of the Government's advice on the maximum safe drinking levels, from 21 units a week for men and 14 units for women. New daily limits of four units for a man (equivalent to 28 a week) and three for a woman (21 a week) were set to emphasise the importance of avoiding weekend binge drinking. However, the guidance was immediately interpreted as a 33 per cent increase for men and 50 per cent for women. A unit is half a pint of ordinary bitter, a small glass of wine or a single measure of spirits.

Sir Donald said at a conference hosted by Drinkline, the alcohol helpline: "This was a mistake because I don't think it's based on satisfactory scientific evidence. It will increase the average consumption, which will increase the number of problem drinkers."

He said the sale of alcopops should be banned if proved to be harmful. "It seems self-evident that alcopops appeal to those who are still drinking soft drinks. They might have a tendency to habituate people to alcohol in childhood."

It is estimated that 8.5 million Britons drink more than the recommended levels.

☐ *The Drinkline helpline number is 0345 320202.*

New research transforms outlook for osteoporosis

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

A NEW drug treatment for osteoporosis halves the risk of bone fractures, doctors announced yesterday.

British experts said the findings, from an American study of 2,000 women, should transform the approach to the disease, and end the debate over whether women disabled by the condition were worth treating.

Osteoporosis is a condition in which the bones weaken as they lose calcium. It affects one in four postmenopausal women — about three million in Britain — and leaves them vulnerable to bone fracture. Most are symptomless fractures of the spine, causing loss of height and a bowed back, but there are 45,000 hip fractures a year that require hospital treatment.

In the new study, the largest conducted into osteoporosis, half the women were given the drug alendronate and half a placebo. All the women had low bone density and had previously suffered at least one fracture.

After three years, the women who were given alendronate were half as likely to have suffered further fractures of the hip, wrist or the spine, according to results published in *The Lancet*.

Dr Dennis Black, of the University of California, San Francisco, who led the study by the Fracture Intervention Trial Research Group, said that almost all women with hip fractures had to be admitted to hospital and one in five died within a year. Alendronate, which is sold in Britain under the brand name Fosamax, is a biphosphonate which prevents the breakdown of bone. Other biphosphonates are available, and hormone replacement therapy has also been shown to slow or halt the loss of bone.

Professor Ignac Fogelman, head of the osteoporosis clinic at Guy's Hospital, London, and scientific adviser to the National Osteoporosis Society, said the findings should silence doubts about whether there was any effective treatment for the condition. For a 70-year-old woman with osteoporosis in whom other causes such as diet or co-existing disease had been ruled out, the practical choice was between HRT and a biphosphonate.

"This study has been beautifully done and it shows a dramatic reduction in the likelihood of fractures. Even the most sceptical clinicians should be convinced."

Professor Fogelman said that doctors had tended to regard elderly women with fractures as hopeless cases who were not worth treating. "Now that view is no longer correct. All patients should be treated."

Fosamax costs £25.69 for four weeks' supply or about £350 a year including dispensing costs. Treatment may last ten years. If all women at risk in Britain were prescribed the drug, the cost would be more than £1 billion at current prices. However, there would be savings in hospital and other costs.

Safer way to help infertility

MEDICAL BRIEFING

A third of women who have difficulties in conceiving do so because of damage to the fallopian tubes, which carry the egg from the ovaries to the uterus.

A doctor with sensitive fingers might detect that the tubes are thickened, tender or have a localised swelling within them but it requires considerable experience and ability to make sound conclusions from these findings.

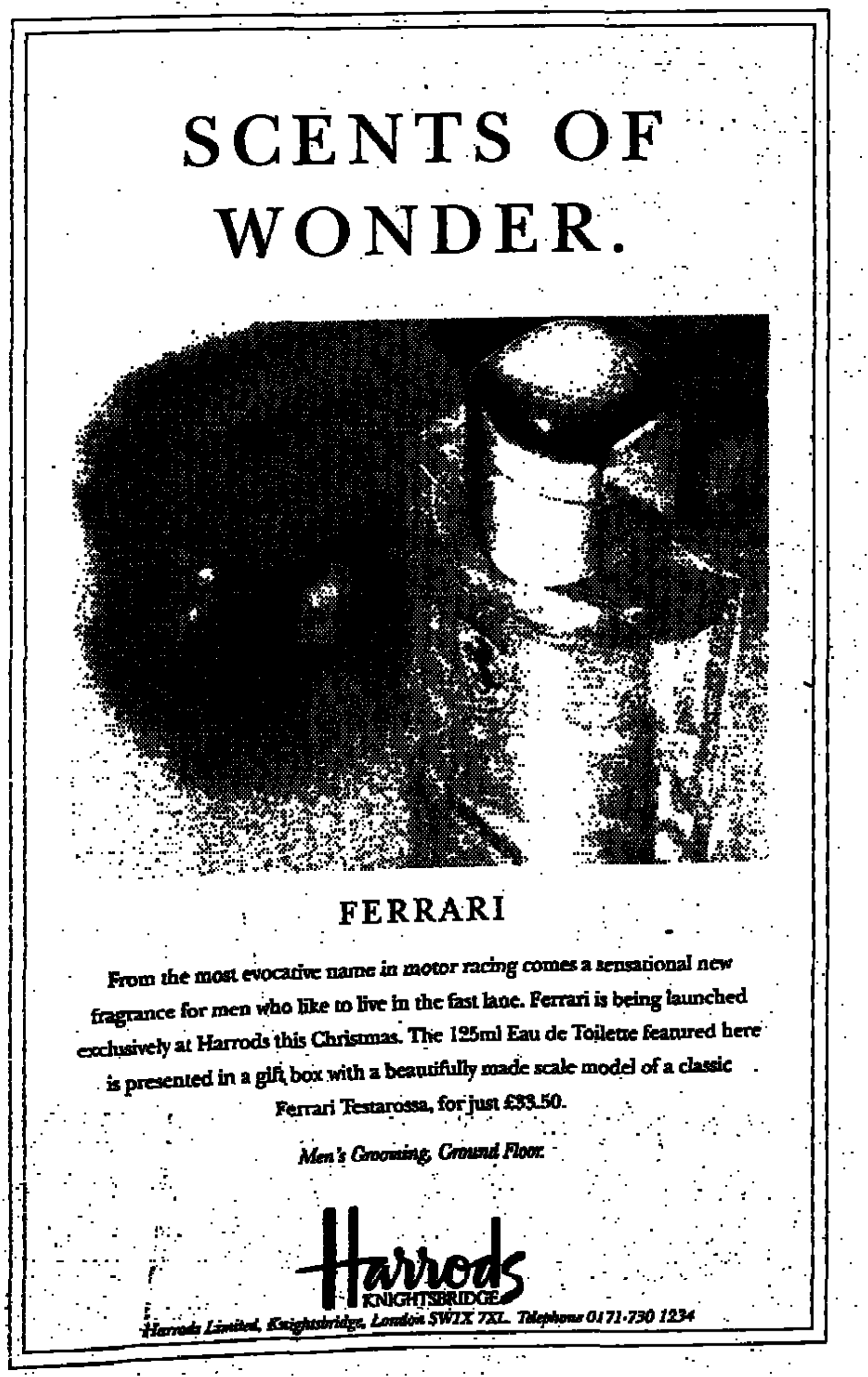
X-ray examination of the tubes does not always provide a clear picture. Examination of the pelvis by the surgeon, using a laparoscope, with the injection of dyes into the tube, discloses damage, but if there is only minor damage to the lining of the tube it might be missed. The state of the lining of the tube can be of paramount importance to the easy transmission of the ovum.

Trans-vaginal ultrasound was an advance in the examination of the tubes, but fails to expose the state of the lining.

Next week in Edinburgh, at a conference of the British Medical Ultrasound Society, a new contrast medium, HyCoSy, will be demonstrated which, when used with ultrasound, will provide a clear picture of the inside of a patient's fallopian tubes and allow any blockage to be detected within 15 minutes. There is no anaesthetic, and no invasive procedure. Within half an hour, the patient can be on the way home. With no X-ray, there is no danger of the side-effects of radiation.

Dr Henry Irvine, president of the British Medical Ultrasound Society, says that the use of HyCoSy with ultrasound will entirely replace existing procedures in the investigation of such cases.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford



SCENTS OF WONDER.

FERRARI

From the most evocative name in motor racing comes a sensational new fragrance for men who like to live in the fast lane. Ferrari is being launched exclusively at Harrods this Christmas. The 125ml Eau de Toilette featured here is presented in a gift box with a beautifully made scale model of a classic Ferrari Testarossa, for just £33.50.

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Operation veteran, 7, heads plea for blood

By Jeremy Laurance

A BOY of seven, who has had 22 operations in the past two years, launched an appeal for more blood donors yesterday.

Lamech Banton-Miller was born with the rare inherited condition neurofibromytosis, which caused a blockage in his main artery, cutting the blood to his kidneys. In the past eight months he has had repeated blood transfusions and had a kidney transplant in May at Guy's Hospital. He is now back at school.

Yesterday he helped to launch the National Blood Service's Christmas campaign at Guy's. The service is short of blood, with stocks at their lowest recorded level. Supplies to hospitals have been cut.

Dr Mary Brennan, director of donor services, said that Lamach represented all the people who regularly needed blood and would serve as a reminder of the importance of making donations.

When Lamech was four, doctors removed his left kidney. Eighteen months later, the right one failed and was removed, and he was placed on dialysis.

In March he was admitted to Guy's with high blood pressure and a raised temperature and lost a large amount of blood. He was put on a life-support machine and needed 30 units of blood and blood products to save his life.

☐ New donors can telephone 0181-672 2222 to enrol.

CHRIS HARRIS

Lamech Banton-Miller, 7, yesterday. He has endured 22 operations in two years

Deadly spider weaves a new spell

Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

THE venom of the black widow spider is being harnessed for use as a pesticide that should remove the need to spray crops with chemicals that damage the environment.

Scientists at Nottingham University have succeeded in isolating a toxin that kills only insects from the various poisons in the venom. They plan to insert the toxin into a virus that can be sprayed on crops. The poison would remain inert unless eaten by insects attacking the crops and would not harm mammals.

David Bell, a toxicologist at the university, said: "The spider produces the toxin in an inactive form and then activates it by chopping off the end of the protein when it is in the venom gland. We have been able to replicate this trick in the test-tube."

Dr Bell and his colleagues have been awarded a grant of more than £270,000 by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council to fund work on discovering exactly how the toxin mechanism operates, and an international chemical company has expressed interest in conducting field trials.

Black widows are among the deadliest spiders. If humans are bitten they suffer severe pain, nausea and mild paralysis of the diaphragm. In rare cases the effects can be fatal.

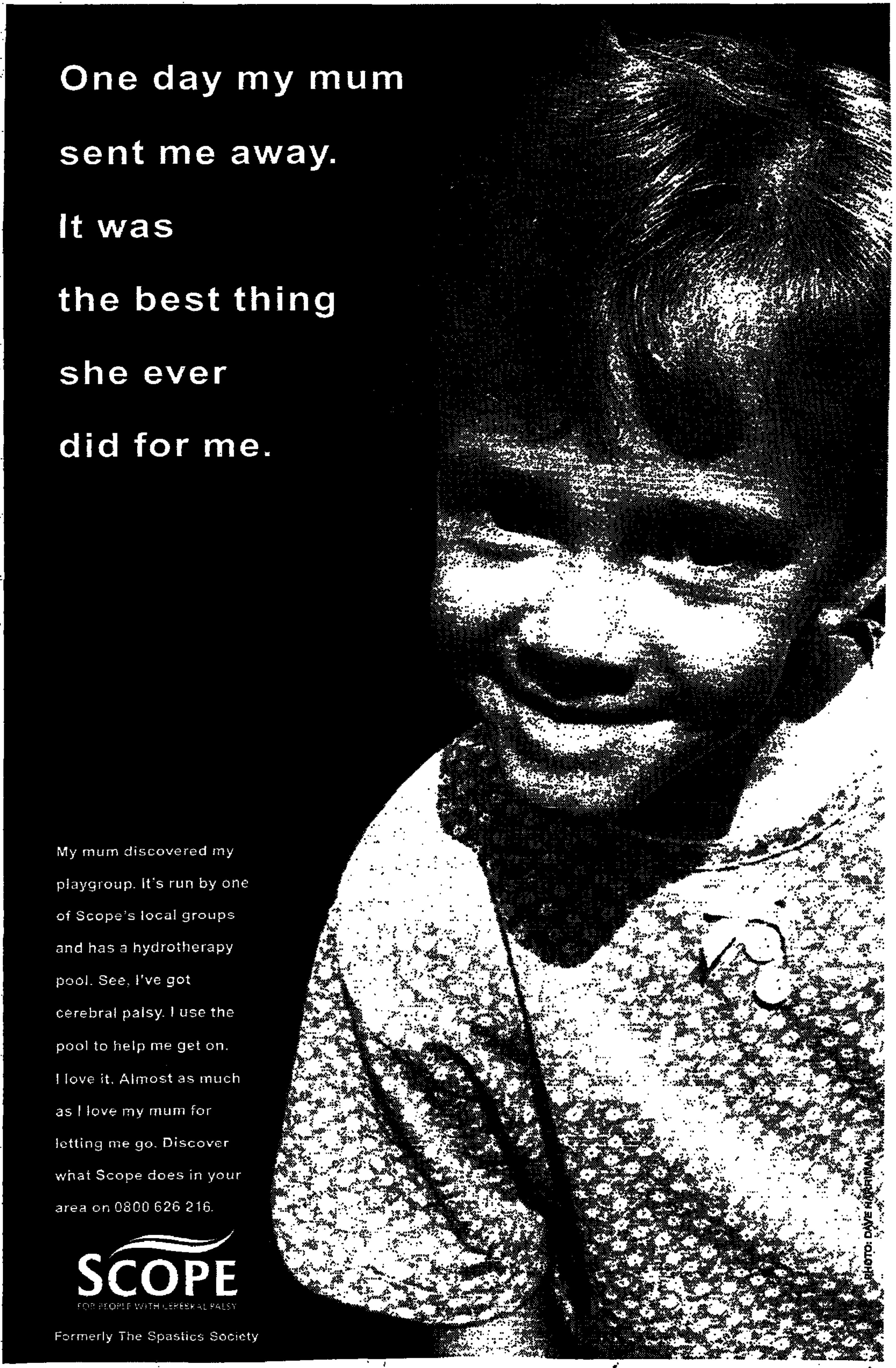

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PHOTO: DAVE HARRIMAN

Soaring vandalism 'threatens mass murder' on railway

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

RAILWAY vandalism is soaring and could lead to "mass murder" if steps are not taken urgently to tackle it, the Chief Inspecting Officer of Railways said yesterday.

The number of train accidents and fires caused by "malicious action" rose by 41 per cent to 321 in the year to April 1, according to the annual report on rail safety compiled by the Health and Safety Executive. Nearly a third of the 989 train accidents and nearly half of the 256 fires during the 12 months were caused deliberately. The number of malicious fires was the highest on record.

The figures marred an otherwise good improvement in rail safety, with only one passenger killed in a train incident during the year. The Health and Safety Executive has called a conference of safety officials, police, magistrates and probation officers in March to consider ideas for combating rail vandalism.

Stanley Robertson, the Chief Inspecting Officer, gave warning of the potential for "mass murder" if a busy train was derailed by an obstruction on the line. In some inner-city areas train drivers had to run a gauntlet of bricks and stones thrown from bridges by children, he said. On one line, safety fences were regularly pulled down within days of being erected because local people used the railway as a short-cut even though there was a footbridge 50 yards away.

The most serious vandalism incident happened when wooden sleepers were placed across the track at Draycott, Derbyshire, in August last year. A three-carriage train with 60 people on board hit the obstruction at 75mph, making the locomotive leap into the air. But the wheels landed back on the rails and there were no serious injuries.

Mr Robertson said that there was no simple explanation for the growth in rail vandalism, but one factor could be high soccer ticket prices in areas such as Liverpool and Manchester, where youngsters had traditionally vented their frustrations by following their local team but could no longer afford to.

Overall, the report said, the safety record on the railways followed an encouraging trend, with deaths at unprecedentedly low levels and significant train accidents down by 30 per cent. Passenger train collisions were down from 18 to four and derailments from 28 to 23. The only passenger death was in a fire on an InterCity train at Maidenhead, Berkshire, in September last year.

Mr Robertson said, however, that he was not yet satisfied with the safety systems of the new privatised rail operators, and that there were still areas giving cause for concern, such as Railtrack's use of contractors.

He was concerned that older rolling stock "might continue in service longer than was expected. Action needs to be taken by the industry to respond positively to safety concerns about the safety of this older stock."

The report criticised Eurotunnel for failing to stop trains running through the Channel Tunnel when the service tunnel, which is used for evacuation, filled with exhaust smoke in September last year.

The report said: "While the smoke was not toxic, all trains should have been suspended because of the loss of the safe haven. Since Eurotunnel's rules did not cover this eventuality, it continued to operate a normal night service." The report added that Eurotunnel had since carried out a review and had amended its emergency procedures.

The car in which Sharon Dunn, right, was travelling

Pregnant women shocked as cars are hit by blocks

SHARON DUNN, who is five months' pregnant, was recovering yesterday after being showered with glass when lumps of breeze-block were dropped on to her boyfriend's car as she sat in the passenger seat.

The windscreen, passenger window and sunroof shattered as the couple were driving under a bridge on the A41 in Birkenhead, Merseyside, on Wednesday night. Miss Dunn, 24, was temporarily blinded as her eyes filled with fragments of glass, while her three-year-old son Dale screamed in the back.

About an hour later, a second car had its windscreen smashed and its roof damaged by rubble dropped from the same bridge. The driver, a six months' pregnant woman from Chester, suffered shock. In both incidents, another car was also damaged.

Speaking at home in Birkenhead yesterday, after doctors said that her baby was unharmed, Miss Dunn said: "I am just really glad it got me, and not my boyfriend who was driving — because if he had been hit and got glass in his eyes we would all have been killed.

"I got hit full-force on the left-hand side, but I'm not sure if I was hit by the object or the glass. We hadn't seen anyone on the bridge. We were just listening to the radio and the next minute, bang." Miss Dunn's boyfriend had stopped the car immediately and run back to look for those responsible, while she tried to flag down cars for help. A lorry driver telephoned for the police and an ambulance.

Detective Sergeant Mike Evens said there had been recent reports of youths throwing things from the bridge. "We are so very fortunate that Miss Dunn has not received more serious injuries. Cars are travelling at high speeds, which compounds the danger. The missile will hit at an even greater force and even a small object will cause severe damage."

Man dies changing tyre for teenagers

A CAR worker has been killed by a suspected drink-driver while helping three teenage women to change a flat tyre.

Alan Wynne, 62, went to the women's aid after hearing a bang outside his home in Hawkesley, Birmingham. The women's Mini had hit the kerb and damaged a tyre. He knelt in the road to change it as two of the women watched and another stayed in the car.

He was killed when a blue Rover Metro skidded and ploughed into the back of the Mini. Amanda Browning, 17, who was in the Mini, suffered a sprained back from the impact, but the two other women were unhurt.

Nurses from a nearby house joined neighbours and police officers in trying to pull Mr Wynne, an upholsterer at the Rover plant in Longbridge, from beneath the wreckage. Firefighters used hydraulic equipment to free him, but he died before medical crews arrived.

His wife, Freda, 62, said: "He died doing his usual good turn. He was always helping people and would always go out and help a driver if they were in trouble."

A 39-year-old man from King's Norton, Birmingham, was arrested on suspicion of drink-driving and of causing death by dangerous driving. He was being questioned by police yesterday.

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All-night opening before Christmas

By Noel Fung

SUPERMARKET chains will be extending their opening hours in the run-up to Christmas. Several, including Tesco and Asda, will stay open for 36 hours, from 6am on Monday, December 23, until midnight on Christmas Eve.

Advertised best buys:

Asda: fresh turkey crown £4.38 per kg, beef frying steak £4.60 per kg, frozen prawns £4.75 per 800g, courgettes 39p a lb, carrots 32p per kg, red dessert apples 38p a lb.

Budgens: fresh Lincolnshire pork sausages 454g for 99p, oak ham on the bone 79p for ¼ lb, minced pies 12 pack for £1.09, Abacus mixed nuts (in shell) 550g for £2.49, Brussels sprouts 500g for 39p.

Co-op (CWS): red salmon 99p for 213g, assorted crisps 99p for 14 packs, frozen garden peas 79p for 907g, fresh cream trifles £1.19 for 397g.

Harrods: duck *foie gras* £10.80 for 75g, duck *foie gras* with truffles £16.20 for 75g, whole York ham £12.99 per kg, *boudin blanc* £1.29 for 100g.

Iceland: whole leg of lamb £3.94 per kg, diced steak £1.59 for 454g, salmon fish cakes 99p for eight, button sprouts 99p for 907g, chocolate cheesecake £1.49 for 400g.

Marks & Spencer: salmon fillets 680g for £8.99, chicken breast four portions for £3.29, extra large bag of clementines £1.99, profiteroles 12 for £1.69.

Morrisons: turkey steak £1.99 a lb, super roaster chicken £4.49 each, whole trout £1.29 a lb, frozen cooked and peeled prawns 400g for £2.29, Plumrose party sausages 411g for 55p.

Safeway: smoked British half gammon on the bone £2.84 per kg, rump steak £7.05 per kg, prawns 450g for £2.79, roast potatoes 907g for £1.29, white seedless grapes £1.99 a lb.

Sainsbury's: North Atlantic prawns 800g for £4.99, fresh beef sirloin steak £9.19 per kg, luxury mincemeat 411g for £1.19.

Somerfield: pre-sliced Scottish smoked salmon 400g for £4.99, frozen medium prawns 400g for £2.49, fresh pigs' liver 68p a lb.

Waitrose: boneless chicken breasts six for £6.49, cranberry sauce 310g for 79p, dairy vanilla ice-cream 2 litres for £1.99, cherries £2.99 a lb.

Cigars sold for record £108 each

By John Shaw

THE 6th Duke of Buccleuch's cigars, rediscovered in perfect condition after 140 years, were sold for £17,600 at Christie's in London yesterday.

The 163 cigars worked out at £108 each, a record, and were bought by Peter de Savary for Skibo Castle, his luxury hotel in Scotland.

They were discovered in a cabinet in a storeroom at Bowhill, one of the Buccleuch family homes in Selkirk. The upper tray was empty and it is believed that as a result the lower tray was overlooked. When it was eventually opened, a treasure trove of Victorian cigars was discovered: 108 Vequeros from 1858, 28 Regalia 1856, 20 Murray 1857, and seven Colerados 1858. The humidity and cold had kept them in prime condition. They were sold by the present Duke with the oak cabinet in which they were found.

A cigar expert who smoked one of the Vequeros before the sale pronounced: "Smokes perfectly, beautiful draw with fine white ash. Rich oily flavours, an aromatic, perfumed but full-bodied smoke."

☐ A 205-year-old bottle of Château-Lafite fetched £20,900 at a Christie's sale yesterday. The exceptionally rare bottle emerged on to the auction market from a European aristocrat's cellars, where it had been for well over a century. The 1791 vintage predates the oldest vintage in the private cellar at Lafite by eight years.

Poor crops raise price of nuts

By a Staff Reporter

A SHORTAGE of almonds, pistachios and hazelnuts has pushed up prices ahead of the peak Christmas season. Crop shortages in California and bad weather in Iran have increased almond and pistachio prices by up to 20 per cent.

The cost of hazelnuts has risen by 35 per cent because of the Turkish Government's decision to create an artificial shortage by withholding stocks. In California, two years of cold and windy weather have hit the quality of the almond harvest.

Jorn Dahlgard, a nut importer, said: "There has been a shortage of crops from different countries and we, the importers, have been hit with major price rises this year. These rises are not necessarily passed on in full to the consumer, though some retailers, particularly greengrocers and markets, may find it hard not to."

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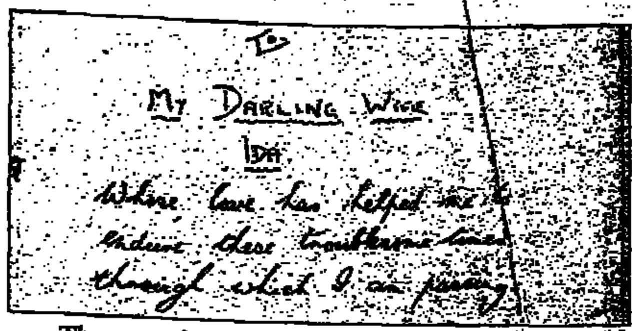
Daughter wins fight for soldier's diary of Burma ordeal



To

My Darling Wife

Ida

Whose love has helped me to endure these troublesome times through which I am passing

The secret journal's inscription to Mrs Smith

By Alan Hamilton

THE daughter of a prisoner of war who died on the notorious Burma Railway has won a two-year campaign to buy her father's secret diary of his ordeal.

Lance Corporal Bill Smith died from beriberi and tuberculosis on December 17, 1943, at the age of 28, when his daughter was aged four. His diary, which would have brought instant execution if found by his Japanese guards, was rescued by another prisoner.

Begun while Lance Corporal Smith was in Changi jail after the fall of Singapore in 1942, the diary's handwriting increasingly faltered as his health deteriorated. The last entry is dated December 8, 1943: "At the present time having a bad spell with malaria." Nine days later be was dead.

Two years ago his daughter, Carol Cooper of Gorleston, Norfolk, read in her local newspaper that a prisoner's diary had been bought at auction in Hull for £248 and lent by the buyer — another old soldier — to the museum of the Royal Norfolks, her father's old regiment, in Norwich. She was astonished to discover that it had been written by her father.

Mrs Cooper offered to buy it from the owner, Peter Staff, 59, a furniture salesman and former corporal in the Royal Norfolks who collects war memorabilia. He declined to sell, saying the diary's proper home was in the museum. Mrs Cooper approached the museum, which said that she could could inspect the diary by appointment and have a photocopy but could not take it home.

Bill Smith with his wife Ida and their daughters Olive and baby Carol, who is pictured yesterday with her father's diary. "I cried my eyes out when I first saw it"

Angry at what she regarded as a lack of compassion, she contacted solicitors and war veterans' associations but was told that Mr Staff was the rightful owner. Only when BBC Television in Norwich began to make a documentary about the diary did Mr Staff have a change of heart. He sold it to Mrs Cooper on condition that it will eventually return to the museum, and he donated his £300 asking price to a Romanian orphans' charity.

Mrs Cooper, a hospital administrative officer with three children, said yesterday: "I cried my eyes out when I saw the diary for the first time. When I heard about it I just wanted it returned to my family so that we could remember my father. I am sure that is what he would have wanted; he said in the diary that he was keeping it as a record for my mother."

Mrs Cooper said she wanted to show the diary to other members of her family but might eventually bequeath it to the museum. Mr Staff said yesterday he still felt that, as a piece of history, the diary's proper place was in the regimental museum. "But eventually I was persuaded that Mrs Cooper had a moral right to it as she was his only surviving daughter. I just hope she keeps her word and gives it to the museum later."

Early entries, written neatly in ink, tell of swimming, concerts and high spirits. Later entries change to spidery writing in pencil and the news is of forced marches, slave labour and disease.

From June 1943: "It has rained every day since I have been here. It's hellish, mud everywhere. Food shortages. Two meals of half a mug of gravy and half a mug of rice." Two weeks later: "There have been 167 deaths this month so far and the record was 28 in one night. It is simply a case of murder. The poor chaps are simply stripped and dumped eight to a grave."

Bound in a piece of blue hessian from a kitbag, the 104-page account is inscribed: "To my darling wife Ida, whose love has helped me to endure these troublesome times through which I am passing." Mr Smith's widow, who died four years ago aged 78, did not learn of his death and burial in Burma until after the war.

Author's letters reveal a scoundrel

By John Vincent and Robin Young

H.G. WELLS was a "self-centred scoundrel", according to the woman who is offering for sale letters written by Dame Rebecca West, one of his many mistresses and mother of his son Anthony.

Dame Rebecca, herself a writer, gave birth to Anthony in 1914 when she was 20, at the start of a turbulent relationship with the novelist and popular historian. Her letters, to be sold at Sotheby's on December 17, are expected to fetch up to £15,000.

Dame Rebecca's niece, Alison Selford, of Muswell Hill, north London, says that Wells seduced her aunt and by refusing for most of his life to acknowledge their son contributed to Anthony becoming "a fiend in human form".

Mrs Selford, 76, daughter of Dame Rebecca's sister Winifred, said yesterday: "Do not think because people are famous that they lead happy lives. They do not." She added: "Wells's refusal to acknowledge Anthony had a terrible effect on the boy."

H.G. Wells and West: turbulent relationship

In more than 500 letters that Mrs Selford is selling, Dame Rebecca frequently refers to Wells in disparaging terms. In 1923 she writes: "I've had two other letters from H.G. of the most amazing abusive sort. I've *felt* his hatred of my work for a year or two now — and of course the accusations of laziness are frequent — particularly when I'm ill or dead with overwork." In 1949, she was surprised at a proposal that a forthcoming book should disclose that Wells was father of her son. She persuaded Anthony to suppress the fact.

From the 1920s onwards she brooded over her son's obvious unhappiness and deteriorating behaviour. In one letter she says: "As for Anthony, he appears to be quite mad." In another: ". . . it is the meanest thing he could do — and so terribly like H.G."

Rebecca West also discloses in the letters that she had an affair with Charlie Chaplin. "I never told anybody but when I was out in Los Angeles in 1924 Charlie made violent love to me and asked me to marry him. He told me he was pressing me so hard to live with him then, because he had suddenly become terrified of impotence."

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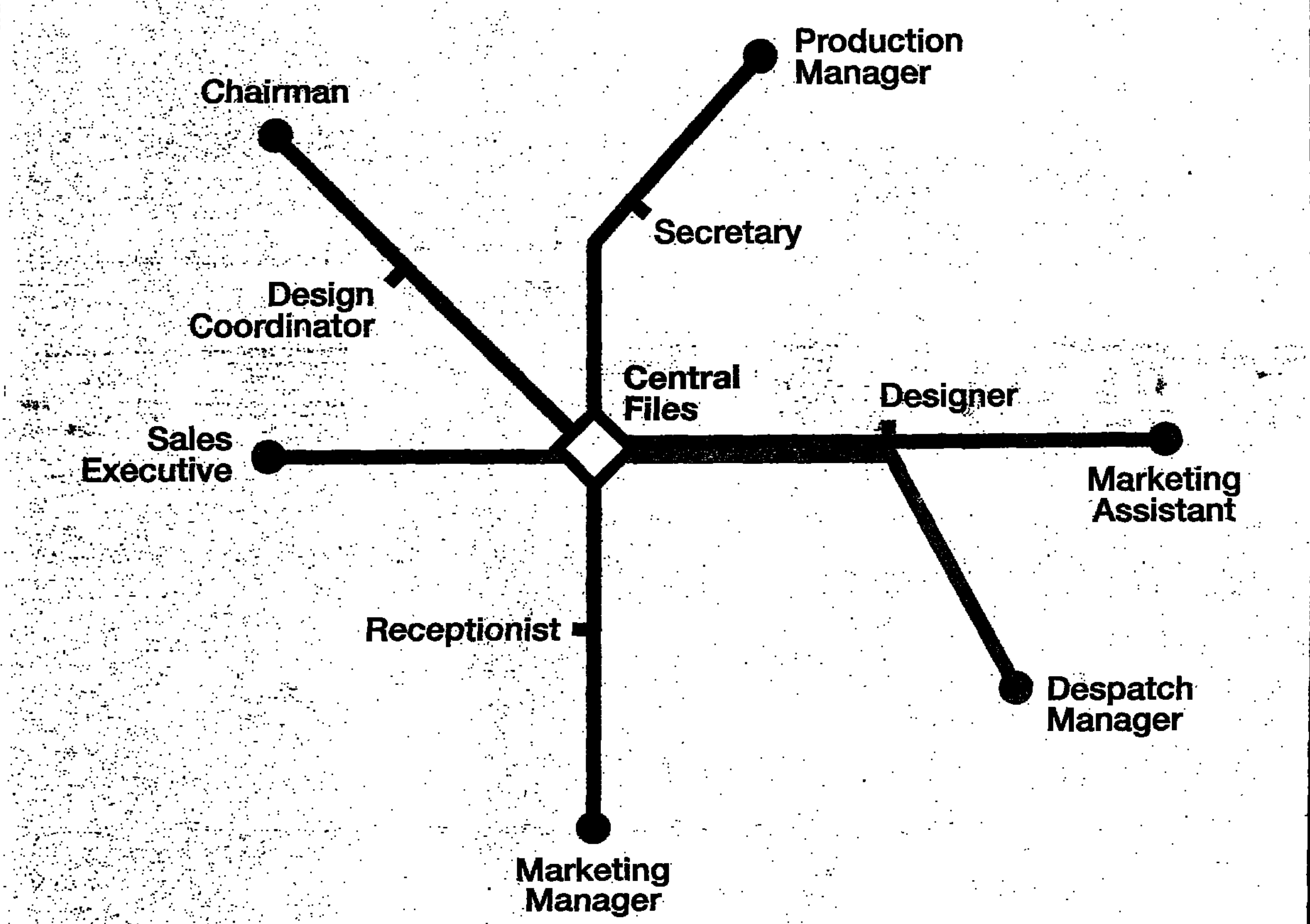

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Tories cannot help making a meal of deadly division over Europe

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

LUNCH is always the most dangerous meal for politicians — especially in a public restaurant where your indiscretions can be observed. Country houses and the salons of the great hostesses were safer, though even then, the identity of sources sometimes became known, even if only within the political world.

The second volume of the *History of the Times* records how, on becoming Prime Minister in 1855, Palmerston realised the value of passing what was then coyly called "intelligence" to Delane, the great mid-19th century editor of this paper. Brougham, a longstanding opponent of *The Times*, described the relationship as "devil worship" and complained: "Is it to be believed that nothing oozes out which should be kept secret, in these connexions?"

Whatever the precise nature of Kenneth Clarke's remarks to the BBC over lunch on Wednesday, and despite denials about "mischief making" last night, the damage has been done. The thrust of the report rings true — over the Cabinet arguments this year and that not only him but also several other ministers would have regarded any decision to close the single currency option as unacceptable. He did not threaten to resign this week since he did not need to do so. The deep wounds within the Tory party over Europe have yet again been revealed. As today's Gallup poll confirms, the Tories are in deep trouble.

No matter how hard, or how often, John Major tries to draw a line and make a definitive statement, the arguments continue. The protagonists are so suspicious of each other that no concordat, however temporary, is possible. The sceptics have been unwilling to accept the Cabinet view last April, when the single currency referendum was announced, that the wait-and-see option should remain at the general election.

As Mr Clarke has allegedly complained, there have been various attempts since then to shift Government policy. The latest clumsy effort this week has backfired in the short-term. The existing policy has been reaffirmed even more strongly by Mr Major, Mr Clarke and particularly Michael Heseltine, even though a change is favoured by many ministers and Tory backbenchers (as expressed at a long discussion at last night's 1922 committee).

However, this is not the end of the story. Not only will there be a further attempt by sceptic ministers in the New Year to press for a statement at the time of the election manifesto ruling out participation in the next parliament, but many Tory MPs and candidates will unilaterally make such a commitment. At the election, the Tory party will be all over the place. The official line that a decision cannot be taken yet will be privately disputed by many ministers and publicly contradicted by the constituency manifestoes of local candidates.

There is, however, a reasonable middle way for the Cabinet — maintaining the wait and see policy (to ensure that Mr Clarke and his pro-European allies do not resign) while pointing to the absence of genuine convergence towards the Maastricht targets on Budget deficits in much of Europe (which would make it difficult, if not impossible, for Britain to join in the first wave). This would not, of course, satisfy those who reject British involvement in monetary union as a matter of principle, but it *could* be a face-saving political compromise until the election. After all, no one seriously believes that a re-elected Tory Government would enter a single currency.

Sensible parties avoid divisive issues when decisions do not have to be taken. But the Tory party is not in a sensible mood. It increasingly resembles the Labour party of the late 1970s and early 1980s, drawn inexorably back to the issue certain to do it most damage. Even if an open split is avoided, a shambles looks unavoidable at the time of the election.

PETER RIDDELL

How Clarke spilt the fagioli at a Mayfair lunch

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

BRUSSELS BOUNCER v INCREDIBLE INDIA RUBBER MAN
WILLSON

IT WAS over a £70-a-head lunch in the West End of London that Kenneth Clarke allegedly said he would resign if John Major changed his "wait and see" policy on a single currency.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was on typically ebullient form as he tucked in with two BBC journalists at Chez Nico at Ninety Park Lane. Two bottles of red wine were consumed by the trio but according to Westminster sources, most of the drinking was not done by the Chancellor. On the table lay a copy of Monday's *Daily Telegraph*, which claimed that the Prime Minister was keen to rule out joining a single currency in the next Parliament before the election.

But between mouthfuls, Mr Clarke allegedly told Jon Sopel and Mark Mardell, two of the BBC's senior journalists in Westminster, that if the policy had changed, not only would he go, but he would be joined by a number of middle-ranking and junior ministers.

Mr Clarke also allegedly said that he was furious with Central Office sources briefing journalists against him and had told Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, to "tell your kids to get their scooters off my lawn".

The lunch was conducted strictly on "lobby terms", which means the conversation was held entirely off the record. Any stories that emerged from the lunch could never be sourced to the guest and Mr Clarke felt he could speak freely without retribution or attribution.

If either of the journalists made his views public — as Mr Sopel did — he could deny the story because it was unsourced. But the Chancellor had not banked on Frank Dobson, Labour's Shadow Environment Secretary, who happened to be lunching at the same restaurant with Robin Oakley, the BBC's political editor.

At the time, Mr Dobson thought little of it. Nothing could be more normal than two senior BBC journalists lunching with a Cabinet minister. It was only when he listened to BBC Radio's lunchtime news yesterday in Wakefield while waiting to catch a train back to London that Mr Dobson realised the importance of the meeting.

He instantly rang Tony Blair's office in London and told the Labour leader's aides about Mr Clarke's lunch.

While Labour spokesmen began telling other lobby correspondents the source of the story, Mr Clarke was forced to issue a statement denying he had threatened to resign.

Yesterday both Mr Sopel and Mr Mardell refused to comment. Mr Sopel said: "It was a private lunch. I am not even confirming who it was with." Mr Mardell said: "I am not confirming or denying any lunches that I have." However, Mr Sopel later blew caution to the wind on BBC Television's *Six O'Clock News* and recounted much of his alleged conversation with Mr Clarke. Mr Sopel presents the weekly discussion programme *Newstalk* on BBC Radio's 5 Live and regularly presents Radio 4's *PM* programme.

Last night Nico Ladenis, the proprietor of Chez Nico at Ninety, who runs two other restaurants bearing his name, refused to confirm that Mr Clarke had lunched at his restaurant on Wednesday.

"I don't go round saying who comes into my restaurant or not," he said. "I would never say that. And anyway I don't remember who comes to my restaurant. I only remember them if they behave badly and I have to throw them out." But he added: "I like Ken Clarke and his policies. I think he is a wonderful man."

It is not the first time that politicians have come unstuck talking to journalists over a meal. During the Labour Party conference in Blackpool in October, Stephen Byers, an employment spokesman, told four lobby correspondents over a meal at the Sea Food Restaurant that Labour was considering breaking its links with the unions.

Before the last election, Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader, told journalists over dinner at Luigi's, a restaurant in Covent Garden, that he might water down the tax policies of John Smith, his Shadow Chancellor.

The site of Mr Clarke's lunch that never was

Brown fires early shots in phoney war on Wirral

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR yesterday wheeled one of its big guns on to a by-election battleground that may witness only the skirmishes of a phoney war.

Gordon Brown thundered into Wirral South to open the Labour campaign headquarters for what could be the last by-election of this Parliament. But even as the Shadow Chancellor prepared the ground, senior Tories were hinting that they might not call the contest, leaving the seat vacant until the general election.

Mr Brown and Ben Chapman, Labour's prospective candidate, voiced immediate anger at the suggestion, accusing the Tories of "running scared" and "disenfranchising the voters of Wirral South". The hints from Westminster are unlikely to stop Labour from campaigning in the constituency in an attempt to shame the Tories into contesting a seat held with a government majority of 8,183.

Even before a real campaign has opened, Mr Chapman and his Tory opponent, Les Byrom, have been trading insults over campaign tactics, with each accusing the other of trying to woo voters before the memorial service for Barry Porter, the Tory MP who died last month.

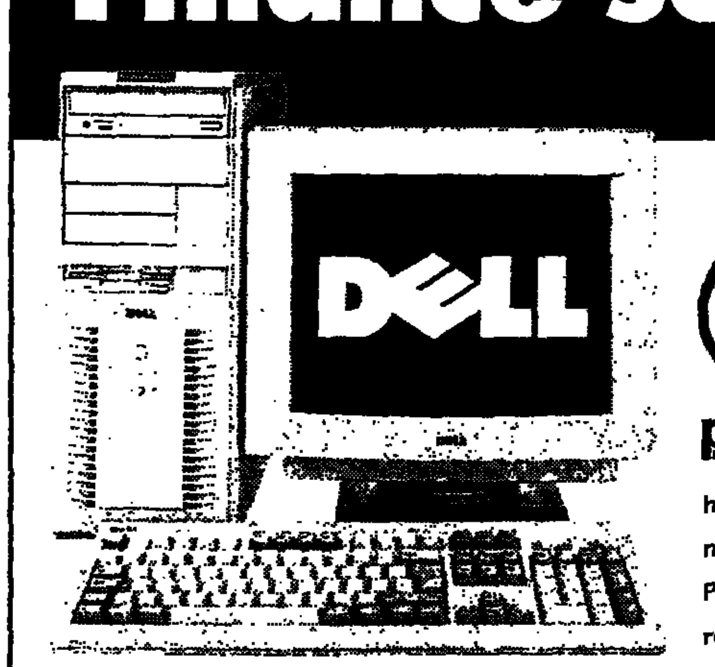
The early weeks of shadow-boxing may prove important for both candidates, particularly Mr Chapman, who has already attracted widespread attention for his swift rise to Labour's front line. Mr Chapman, 56, retired from the Civil Service last year and joined Labour only eight months ago. He put himself forward last month as a late replacement for the previous prospective candidate, who resigned amid accusations surrounding his personal life.

Mr Chapman might have been specially designed to epitomise Labour's shift in recent years. As a senior civil servant at the Department of Trade and Industry he worked closely with ministers such as Michael Heseltine, acting as a diplomat in China and the Far East. More recently the divorced father of three has worked as a DTI director, coordinating business in the Merseyside region.

He concedes that his sudden emergence as a political animal after years of neutrality is likely to be seized upon by the Conservatives. "The point is that any government has to recognise that, within a neutral civil servant doing a job on behalf of the Government, there is a person who has his own independent views."

He said that he had been a stalwart Labour voter but had been able "to do something within the community" only since his retirement. "I have taken the opportunity that arose very unexpectedly."

Mr Byrom, a long-standing Tory councillor in nearby Sefton, said of Mr Chapman: "He has no roots here. He is just a diplomat, but he does not have my experience in dealing with voters and with people's problems."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Patten gives colony firm pledge on passports

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN, the Governor of Hong Kong, said yesterday that it would be "impudent" of Peking to threaten almost 140,000 people in Hong Kong who were given British passports in 1990 to provide reassurance after the 1989 *Tiananmen* Square killings.

Speaking to an extraordinary meeting of the Legislative Council, Mr Patten staked British and his personal honour by guaranteeing that Britain will recognise fully the British Nationality Selection Scheme passport, now and after the transfer of sovereignty next summer.

It is indistinguishable from his own passport, Mr Patten said, waving it at the chamber. If what he said was not true, he added, "you can find me wherever I am and hang my words around my neck".

The Governor had summoned the council to defuse mounting panic here that tens of thousands of people who accepted the BNSS passport would be abandoned because Peking did not recognise the document. "I came as quickly as possible," he said. "This is the right place to deal with these anxieties."

Mr Patten dealt with widespread suspicions of treachery within the Government. One council member raised the possibility that Lawrence Leung, the Director of Information until his sudden retirement in July, had provided the Chinese with the names of thousands of holders of the disputed passports. Mr Leung's background is under investigation by a Legislative Council select committee. The Governor insisted that he had no evidence of such treachery and said: "I have no reason to suspect the Chinese have such a list of names."

Despite assurances earlier in the week from the Governor, Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary, and the Foreign Office in a message sent on Wednesday at Mr Patten's behest, many here remained convinced that a senior British official's statement meant that the 1990 British Nationality Selection Scheme passports, given to 50,000 heads of families and their dependants, would not ensure consular protection.

Francis Cornish, the Senior British Trade Commissioner here, who is also the senior Foreign Office representative, had said on Tuesday that consular protection would not be offered to BNSS passport-holders because Peking regarded them as Chinese. Peking has dismissed the passport as a British political trick, and on Wednesday a Chinese official in the colony said of its holders: "If their BNSS identities are successfully traced, they would no longer be regarded as foreign nationals."

An angry Mr Patten said: "What would China think if Britain decided who was Chinese? They'd think it was a monstrous impudence." He urged Peking's "po-faced" allies in the council to tell China such statements create anxiety in Hong Kong.

Nobody can tell Britain who is a British citizen, Mr Patten said. "All British passports look alike," he said. No consul will ask how it was obtained.

There is an international convention, the Governor explained, which holds that those with dual citizenships cannot expect "formal" consular protection from one country when they are in the other. "But they will still get assistance," he said. A mere statement from Peking that possession of a BNSS passport is proof of dual nationality, the Governor assured the council, "is not evidence".

Without such evidence, for example a Chinese passport, Britain would consider as unquestionably British all BNSS passport-holders. Mr Patten warned Peking that, if it persisted in defining unilaterally those whose foreign passports are valid "after 1997, there will be a large number of arguments with foreign countries".

CLARO CORTES/REUTER

Chris Patten stakes his honour yesterday on the value Britain places on the 140,000 Hong Kong passports

Chinese general gets red-carpet welcome to US

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN AN unprecedented goodwill gesture to Peking, the United States is extending its full diplomatic red carpet to General Chi Haotian, China's Minister of National Defence, who arrived for a ten-day visit to America last night.

General Chi, who commanded the army during the Tiananmen Square massacre in June 1989 and earned his stripes fighting American soldiers on the Korean peninsula, will be granted an honour guard welcome by William Perry, the Defence Secretary, at the Pentagon on Monday. He is also expected to meet President Clinton.

Today he will visit West Point, the army academy outside New York. Next week General Chi will be given tours of the naval installations at Norfolk, Virginia, of Maxwell airforce base in Alabama, Fort Hood army headquarters in Texas, and the Sandia national military laboratory in New Mexico. Then his delegation will be flown to Hawaii to meet the US Pacific Command.

Such a reception would have been inconceivable in the immediate aftermath of Tiananmen Square when hundreds of pro-democracy demonstrators were killed by the general's troops. His visit to the United States was delayed twice last year after the most serious deterioration in relations between the two powers over Taiwan.

The visit is certain to provoke renewed criticism of Mr Clinton's policy of engagement with China from Republicans in Congress. They were the most vocal proponents of the decision to grant a visa to President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan last spring, a move which precipitated a downward spiral in relations and led to Peking's military exercises off the Far Eastern island.

Republicans have since criticised Mr Clinton for not taking a tougher line against the Chinese authorities over human rights violations and missile sales to rogue nations. However, the visit by General Chi was viewed by the White House yesterday as the most tangible sign that Sino-American relations were finally on the mend and, followed by a proposed series of meetings between Mr Clinton and President Jiang Zemin of China, would create a climate of greater warmth between the countries.

Among the key issues which will dominate discussions in Washington will be the Clinton Administration's wish to secure permission for American naval vessels to continue making port calls in Hong Kong after the British colony reverts to Chinese control next summer.

French fight mutineers in Bangui

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

FRENCH troops fought rebels on the streets of Bangui yesterday as an army mutiny in the Central African Republic escalated and foreigners began fleeing the capital.

The uprising, which started on November 16 over army pay, has since intensified into a full-scale rebellion, with overtones of tribal violence, against President Patasse and his French backers.

French troops began evacuating foreign nationals yesterday as rebel shells landed on the capital's main hotel and French tanks took up positions at the presidential palace and national radio station.

The mutineers fired mortars into the city centre and about 400 rebels sought to break out of strongholds in the south and west of the capital. At least two soldiers were killed in the fighting between the mutineers and the French-supported presidential guard. France has 1,500 troops and military advisers in its former colony.

Netanyahu defiant on settlements

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

IN DEFIANCE of Arab, European and American criticism, Israel said yesterday that permission had been given for hundreds more Jews to live in the occupied West Bank and many Israelis now wanted to move there.

David Bar-Illan, a senior adviser to Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, told Israel radio that Jews could now occupy 200 empty housing units in the settlement of Kedumin, near the largest West Bank Palestinian city of Nablus. He said 100 additional units were being built there, with planning permission sought for 200 more.

The official justified the decision to revoke the ban imposed by the previous Labour Government as being necessary to allow for the "natural growth of the settlement".

Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, said that the move violated the 1993 peace accords.

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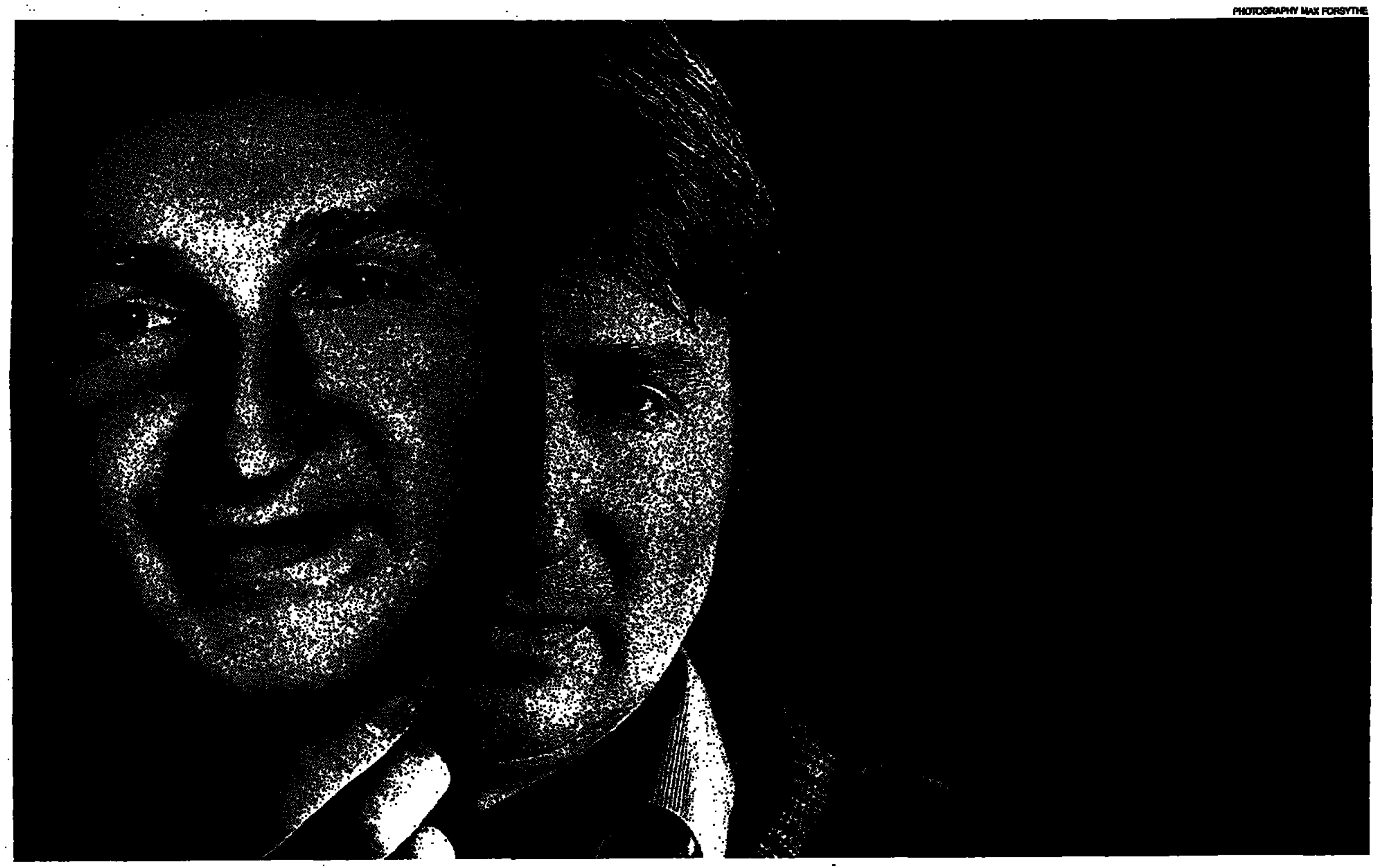
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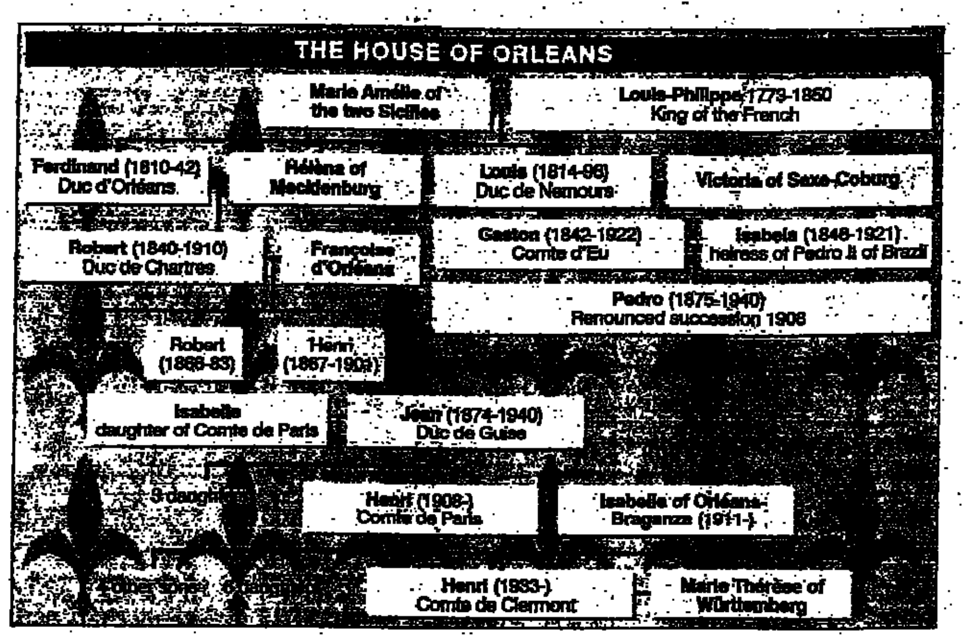
French Pretender sells off family heirlooms

G. SCHACHMES/SYGMA

The present Comte de Paris, a would-be king in waiting, at Chantilly in 1986

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS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Hélène of Mecklenburg
Louis (1814-96) Duc de Nemours
Victoria of Saxe-Coburg
Gaston (1842-1922) Comte d'Eu
Isabela (1846-1921) heiress of Pedro II of Brazil
Robert (1840-1910) Duc de Chartres
Françoise d'Orléans
Pedro (1875-1940) Renounced succession 1908
Robert (1866-83)
Henri (1867-1901)
Isabelle daughter of Comte de Paris
Jean (1874-1940) Duc de Guise
3 daughters
Henri (1908-) Comte de Paris
Isabelle of Orléans-Braganza (1911-)
Henri (1933-) Comte de Clermont
Marie Thérèse of Württemberg

THE Pretender to the French throne will sell off hundreds of family heirlooms next week after a bitter court battle in which his children accused him of plundering their inheritance.

Henri d'Orléans, Comte de Paris, 88, a direct descendant of Hugues Capet, the founder of France's 1,000-year-old Capetian dynasty, announced three years ago that he intended to sell the contents of his former home in Portugal, sparking furious opposition from five of his nine surviving children.

Four days before the intended sale in 1993, the children (aged in their 50s and 60s) filed a lawsuit claiming that the Comte and his wife were "squandering family souvenirs" of emotional value. After a lengthy legal tussle, however, France's court of appeal has given the sale the go-ahead.

On December 14 and 15, Sotheby's in Monaco will auction 400 lots from the collection, including portraits, jewellery, furniture, china and books. The sale is expected to raise up to £1.8 million for the Old Pretender's coffers, but it has led to the most serious split in the fractious French royal family since 1984, when the Comte disinherited his eldest son, Henri, for divorcing and marrying a divorcée.

This week the Comte said that the dispute had left him with a "profound feeling of anger", and he singled out the children, complete with titles, who had dared to oppose his royal will: "Henri, Comte de Clermont — who has since renounced his title — Jacques, Duc d'Orléans, Michel, Comte d'Evreux, Isabelle, Comtesse Frédéric Carl de Schoenborn-Buchheim, and Hélène, Comtesse Evrard de Limbourg-Stirum."

The eccentric patriarch, who claimed that President de Gaulle had suggested he succeed him as head of state in 1965, has made no secret of his wanting the cash to maintain "a certain way of life".

"Our house keeps up appearances better than in Great Britain, where the royal image is really sad and pathetic," the Comte, who has never renounced his right to the French throne, told *Paris-Match* magazine this week.

The last King of France was the Orléanist Louis-Philippe, who abdicated in 1848. While popular among Catholic traditionalists, the House of Orléans is widely seen in France as an entertaining but irrelevant anachronism. The Comte said he would also use the sale's proceeds to continue bringing out the monarchist "monthly bulletin" he founded in 1948, and to "leave something for the children".

Precisely which children is unclear, since the Comte de Paris, in another sign that his family is somewhat less than close-knit, admits he does not know how many grandchildren or great-grandchildren he has, and does not much care. "Frankly, it's only the boys that interest me. The monarchist tradition is founded on male succession ... in the area of succession it is vital to maintain this principle," he said.

He noted, however, that his sons had all opposed his selling off bits of the family heritage, while four of his daughters had "affectionately rallied round". The unseemly feud is a further setback to the tiny minority of French people who cling to the quixotic notion that the monarchy might one day be restored.

However, the Pretender says: "What do you expect? When you have 11 children, there are always some who disagree. Things look fairly favourable for the House of France at the moment," he added, with an optimism undimmed by republicanism and undiluted by realism.

Sotheby's has defended the sale, pointing out that the family has often sold artworks. "After the death of the Grand Dauphin, the son of Louis XIV who was an important collector, most of his collection was sold by the Duc de Berry," points out Alexandre Pradère of Sotheby's.

The majority of the royal family's artworks have already been presented by the Comte to a foundation promoting the "monarchical ideal". Items on sale next week come from the former royal residence, Quinta, where the family lived from the end of the Second World War until 1950, when the claimants to the French throne were allowed back into France. The Portuguese house was sold in 1985.

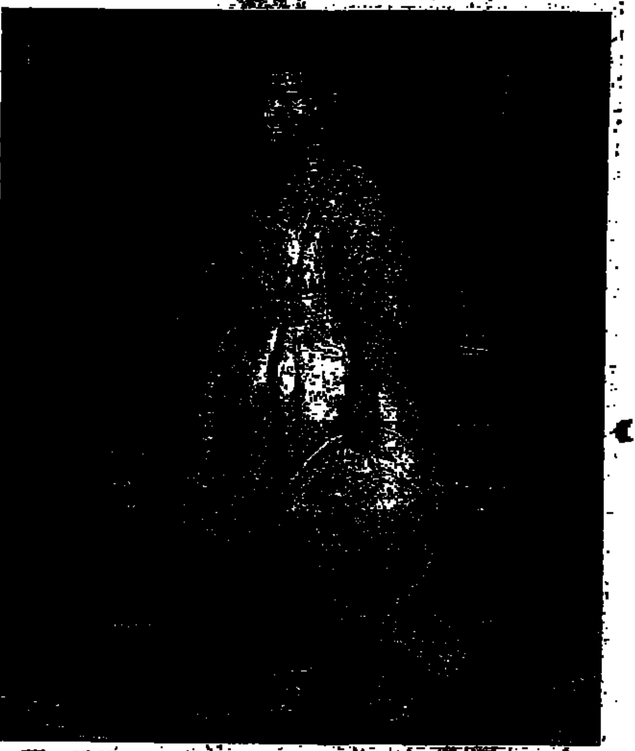
The most important artwork up for auction is an 1842 portrait of the Comte de Paris by Franz-Xaver Winterhalter, valued at Fr300,000 to Fr500,000 (£37,500 to £62,500). The portrait has been declared a national treasure and so can be sold only to a French collector.

A set of six Empire armchairs that once belonged to the statesman Talleyrand is also on sale with an estimated value of Fr300,000.

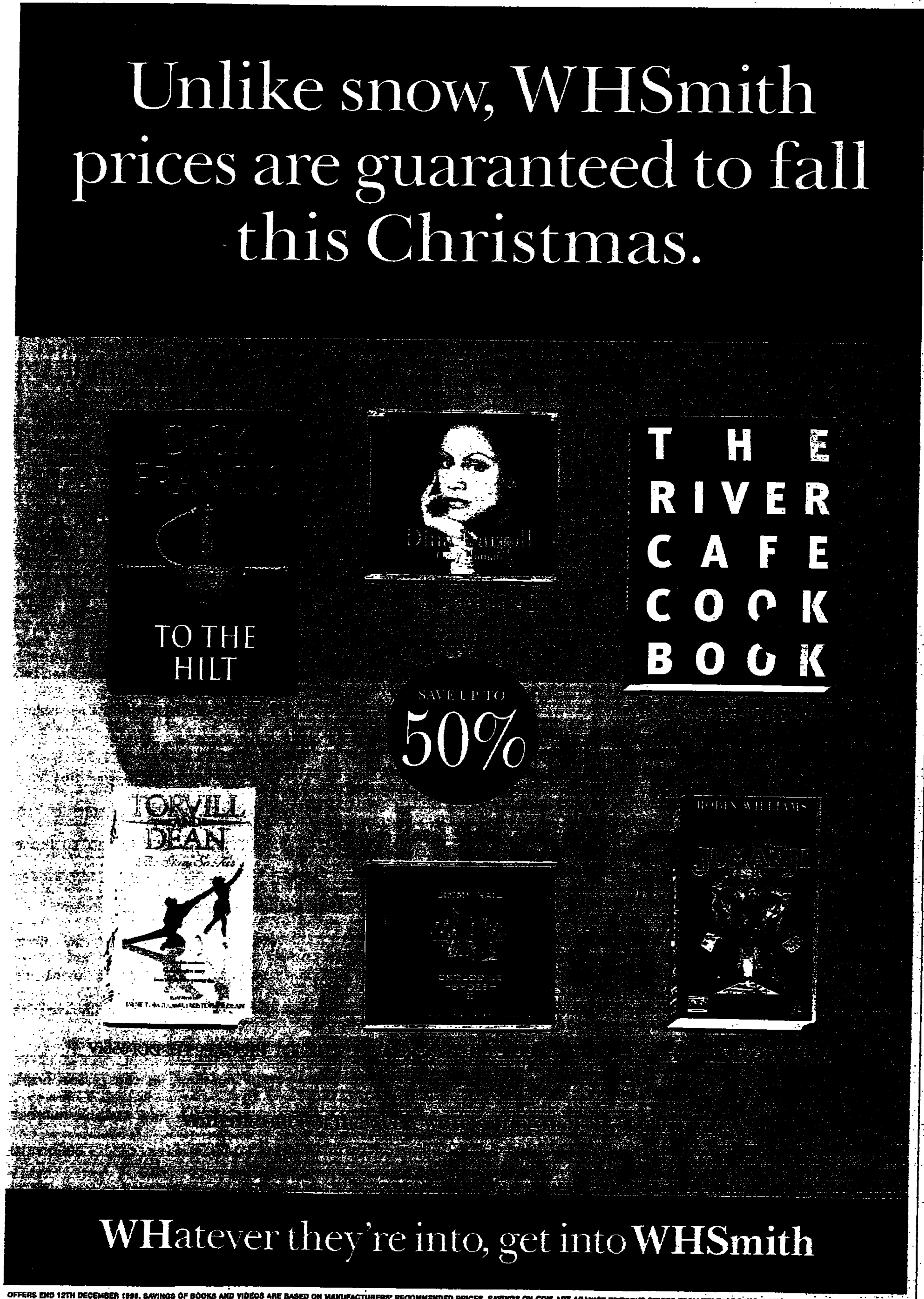
The collection is of greater historical than artistic importance, according to experts, but for France's die-hard monarchists the auction is an opportunity to obtain, say, a book bearing the royal fleur-de-lys for as little as Fr2,000.

While the courts have allowed the sale, the Comte's children, have launched yet another appeal which, if upheld, could lead to fresh legal claims after the collection has been dispersed. The undignified spectacle of the royal house of Orléans bickering over who gets the family silver has not been lost on the sons and daughters of the French Revolution.

As *Le Figaro* pointed out wryly: "It is a sad joke to see this younger branch of the Capetian dynasty putting such great faith in republican justice to sort out their internal squabbles."



The 1842 portrait by Winterhalter of the Comte de Paris, which has been declared a national treasure



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هكذا من الأصل

Juppé's popularity tumbles as woes multiply in France

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

TOYS worth more than £20,000 intended as Christmas presents for the children of Alain Juppé's staff have been stolen, capping a bruising fortnight of misfortune, miscalculation and misery for the French Prime Minister.

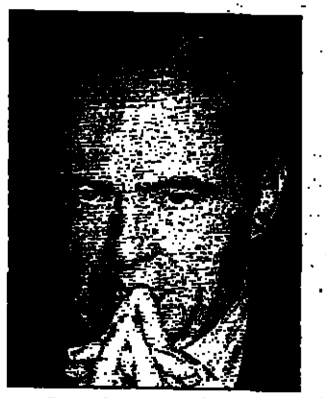
Nothing is going M Juppé's way. The paralysing French lorry drivers' strike has been followed in quick succession by the terrorist bombing of a commuter train and the botched privatisation of the defence giant, Thomson SA.

The divided centre-right coalition is baying for blood, the long-established "franc fort" policy is being openly questioned, France's drive for a single currency is under threat, and M Juppé's popularity has reached the lowest ebb of any leader in modern French history.

Wits have interpreted the theft of the 3,000 Christmas packages as a sign that even Father Christmas has it in for the Prime Minister, but the sea of troubles now swamping M Juppé is mostly of his own making.

On Wednesday the Government halted the sale of Thomson after an independent privatisation commission refused to approve the sale of its electronics branch to a South Korean company. M Juppé had approved the deal before consulting the commission, and his characteristically blunt assertion that Thomson was worthless ignited the fury of its workers.

Korea has demanded an explanation for the U-turn amid allegations of racism: Thomson workers are celebrating victory and even the Government's allies are wondering how a deal that seemed sealed last week has collapsed.


Juppé: swamped by a sea of troubles

"This is just one more shambles," complained François-Michel Gonnot, the Gaullist chairman of the parliamentary committee on trade and industry.

The concessions to striking lorry drivers have already provoked similar demands for early retirement and wage rises in other sectors, and oil industry unions have called for a strike next week.

Tuesday's bomb on a crowded commuter train, which killed two people and injured dozens, has dealt another blow to the government's confidence a year after it claimed to have beaten back the threat of Islamic terrorism.

Shares in department stores have tumbled as machinegun-carrying police and soldiers patrol shops, stations and airports and France faces the prospect of a Christmas period blighted by fear of further attacks. Officials maintain that Tuesday's bombing could not have been anticipated, but according to French newspapers the Government had received a number of recent intelligence reports warning that Paris was once again the target of Algerian Islamic militants.

M Juppé's domestic political woes are scarcely less explosive. *His plans to cap a wealth* tax for the very rich and bring in tougher anti-racism laws are foundering amid strong opposition from his own party, but perhaps most threatening is the growing debate over the policy of linking the franc to the deutschmark, a central tenet of government thinking for more than a decade.

Officials predict a major *reshuffle in the new year, but* Elysée insiders say President Chirac is not yet ready to drop his prime minister. Some of the most savage criticism has come from the ranks of the ruling Gaullist RPR party, of which M Juppé is the head.

In a recent newspaper interview, M Juppé declared that he intended to lead the party into the 1998 elections and *then quit. For many* observers the suggestion that he might be able to hang on for so long appeared wildly unrealistic.

☐ **Corruption inquiry:** An investigating magistrate struck at the heart of an alleged covert funding system for the RPR party by ordering the arrest of the movement's former personnel chief, Louise-Yvonne Casetta, who was regarded as the party's shadow treasurer, was detained for questioning over suspected corruption, justice sources said. *(Reuter)*

DENNIS OWEN/REUTER

Sadako Ogata, the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees, top, at the conference with Bosnian leaders Alija Izetbegovic, left, and Kresimir Zubak

Milosevic pays up to quell protests

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN BELGRADE

THE Serbian President, Slobodan Milosevic, yesterday appeared to be taking steps to quell popular anger, which has brought demonstrators on to the streets of Belgrade for the past 17 days.

He showed no sign, however, of caving in to the protesters' demands that he recognise the results of last month's municipal elections, which gave a resounding victory to opposition parties in almost every major Serbian town. The electoral commission cited unspecified irregularities and state-controlled courts annulled the results.

Local media reported that Mr Milosevic's Socialist Government had introduced a series of measures designed to appease popular discontent by lowering state electricity bills and paying pensioners who have not received state cheques since September. Students, who have led the crusade against the Government, were promised larger grants.

The independent Belgrade radio station, Radio B-92, went back on the air after Serbian authorities came under severe international criticism for shutting it down. The student radio station, Radio Index, also went back on the air yesterday.

"I think Milosevic wants out of this storm," said Mihalo Markovic, a former adviser to the President and former head of the Serbian Socialist Party.

The Government began purging unpopular officials from its ranks. State television announced the resignation of Mile Ilic, the president of the Socialist Party in the town of Nis. He has been blamed by opposition parties for manipulating election results there. Aleksandr Tijanic, the Information Minister, resigned.

Bosnia tribunal boost

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH police officers assigned to The Hague international tribunal investigating war crimes in the former Yugoslavia could be sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina to try to trace the 67 indicted war criminals still at large.

With the promise of more international help, offered yesterday at the end of a two-day conference on Bosnia in London, the tribunal is expected to expand operations.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said he would be "extremely dissatisfied" if General Ratko Mladic, the former Bosnian Serb army commander, and Radovan Karadzic, former president of the Bosnian Serbs, as well as other indicted war criminals had not been dealt with *within the next 12 months.*

Despite the added resources, however, the conference communiqué made it clear that the responsibility for arresting the indicted war criminals remained with the local police.

Spanish dolls take a beating

Madrid: A doll depicting a boy with a black eye, missing teeth and a gashed cheek sparked outrage among Spanish children's rights groups yesterday (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Priced at 1,000 pesetas (£5), and aimed *at three-year-olds to six-year-*olds, the doll is selling briskly. Another version, with the boy's bruised head serving as the top half of a flask of cologne, is doing less well.

Prodeni, Spain's leading child protection society, said it glamorised child abuse. However, Miguel Rodriguez, the manufacturer, asked: "Who says it represents an abused child and not one who has fallen down stairs?"

The dolls that have upset children's rights groups

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هكذا في الأصل

Nazis 'smuggled gold in Swiss diplomatic bags'

From Tom Rhodes in Washington

SWISS bankers used diplomatic pouches to smuggle Nazi gold and securities into Argentina, including a £13 million retirement fund for Hermann Goering, the Luftwaffe commander and one of Hitler's closest henchmen, according to secret papers.

A State Department memorandum of December 1946, made public for the first time yesterday, reported that before the German surrender, Goering, Joseph Goebbels, the Propaganda Minister, and other senior Nazis had tried to transfer "securities, bullion and cash" out of Europe secretly.

The memorandum from Laurence Frank, the US Consul in Austria, was released by Alfonse D'Amato, the New York Republican senator whose banking committee is investigating whether billions of pounds belonging to Holocaust victims may still be hidden in Swiss bank vaults.

The World Jewish Congress has alleged that up to $7 billion (£4.3 billion) belonging to Jews killed in the Holocaust remained in Swiss banks after 1945.

Goering and Goebbels first moved money to Geneva in diplomatic bags which could not be inspected. "It is reported that Reichsmarshall Goering lately used this method to transfer personal funds," Frank's report stated. "According to these reports, Goering previously sent more than $20 million of his personal fortune to Argentina."

Perón: may have helped to open secret accounts

Goering also used a submarine to ship part of his fortune to Argentina in the summer of 1943, the memo said. Goebbels placed $1.3 million in a safety deposit box in a German-controlled bank in Buenos Aires, where Joachim von Ribbentrop, Hitler's Foreign Minister, also secreted a large sum.

These disclosures followed the release of papers from the US Embassy in Buenos Aires earlier this week, showing that the Nazis secretly sent more than $1 billion to Argentina in the last month of the war and scoured the world for sanctuaries for their plundered wealth.

Argentina, which harboured numerous Nazi war criminals — such as Adolf Eichmann, one of the architects of the Holocaust, and Erich Priebke, the former SS captain extradited to Italy last year — has meanwhile been pitched further into the controversy. It was reported that Eva Perón may have conspired with the Nazis to set up secret accounts on behalf of her husband to hide hundreds of millions of dollars obtained from looted Nazi gold, cash and art treasures.

Although the memo said the Swiss Government was probably unaware of the role that Swiss bankers and businessmen played in aiding the Nazis, Mr D'Amato also released a letter that he has sent to Carlo Jagmetti, the Swiss Ambassador, demanding an explanation.

"I am amazed by a passage in the document which states that Swiss bankers were entrusted to conduct diplomatic missions to South America," he said. "My great fear is that it was these bankers who were allowed to carry on such missions that were facilitating the transfer of Nazi loot to Argentina and beyond."

☐ **Geneva:** An independent panel will investigate the Washington reports, Thomas Borer, a Swiss Foreign Ministry official, said. The Government had no knowledge of the allegations, he added. *(AP)*

Bernard Levin, page 11

GARY BERNARD

A protester makes a peace sign after South African police fired teargas and stun grenades yesterday at hundreds of Zulus, some armed with handguns and traditional weapons, demonstrating on the East Rand over eviction from a township.

Clashes at Zulu protest

About 800 residents associated with the Inkatha Freedom Party in the township of Thokoza had started marching towards council offices in the nearby town of Alberton after chasing away officials who tried to serve eviction notices (Inigo Gilmore writes). The residents fired shots before police cordoned off roads and fired stun grenades to disperse the crowd. The trouble had its roots in violence during the run-up to the 1994 election, in which Thokoza was a focal point. Supporters of President Mandela's African National Congress fled their homes when Inkatha supporters occupied them. Since then the township has been divided, with ANC supporters living in one half and Inkatha supporters in the other.

The proposed evictions were part of a plan to rebuild the township. Local officials said they would continue to press for evictions.

Afghan 'puppet' dies in Moscow

From Richard Beeston in Moscow

BABRAK KARMAL, the former Afghan leader who helped to trigger the ill-fated Soviet invasion of his country but was later deposed by the Kremlin, has died in exile at a Moscow hospital.

The 67-year-old former Communist leader is reported to have died from liver cancer on Tuesday at the Kremlin's Central Clinical Hospital. His body is expected to be returned to northern Afghanistan for burial.

Mr Karmal, the son of a general and a member of the Afghan elite, emerged as a political figure in the 1960s when he won a reputation as a fiery Communist orator and went on to found the pro-Soviet People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

When the party seized power in 1978, he lost ground in the rivalries within the Communist leadership and was posted as Ambassador to Prague by the new Afghan dictator, Hafizullah Amin. However, Mr Karmal was chosen as the Kremlin's puppet figure when Amin was murdered and Soviet forces invaded.

Obituary, page 23

Farmers urged to end Greek blockade

From Reuter in Athens

COSTAS SIMITIS, the Greek Prime Minister, appealed to thousands of farmers yesterday to end a crippling eight-day blockade of road and rail links, saying it was posing a serious threat to the economy.

Among those caught up in the dispute are foreign lorry drivers, including about 40 from Britain stranded at Patras, Greece's third largest harbour.

In his first public comments since the farmers began their action last Thursday, Mr Simitis said in a televised address: "The taking over of national roads and paralysing of transport are putting an unbearable cost on the economy. The takeovers harm vital interests of other sectors. They violate the rights of our citizens, and endanger the labour and income of other workers."

He appealed to farmers, who have blocked land links to Greece using 10,000 tractors, to lift the barricades, but did not go beyond veiled threats.

Mr Simitis, facing his first crisis since winning September's elections, has said sacrifices must be made to meet European Union economic convergence targets.

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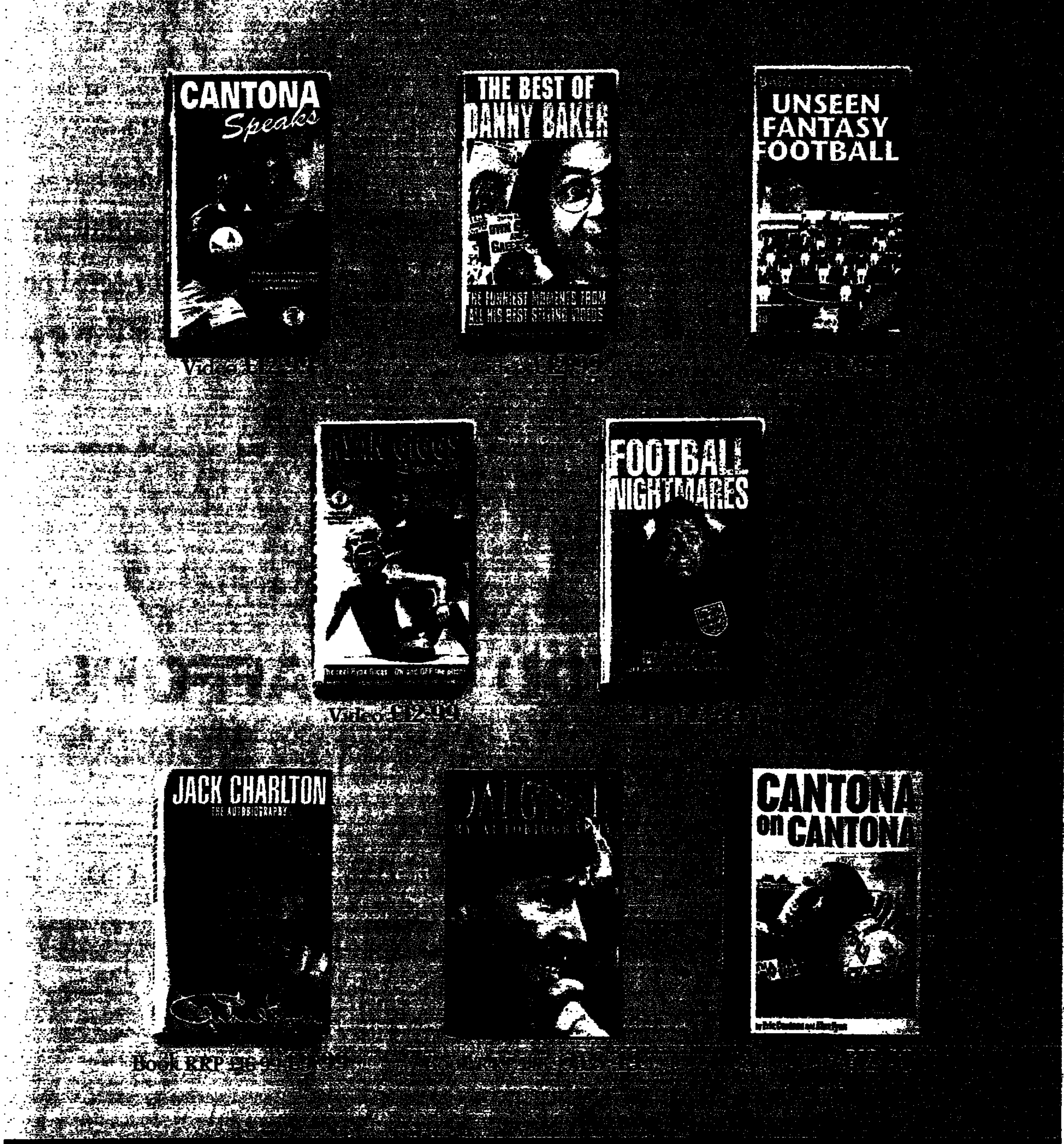

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US inflation error offers 'quick fix' for deficit

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

AMERICANS woke yesterday to the revelation that government inflation figures for the past two decades have been exaggerated by a third. If the flaws are corrected, the country's budget woes could be eased at a stroke, but the changes would hit the wallets of every pensioner and taxpayer.

The new inflation estimates emerged from a commission of independent economists appointed by Congress. If the Government fixes the flaws in its inflation model, as an independent commission recommends, it will be able to knock more than $50 billion (£31 billion) off the 2002 government budget deficit — more than a third. But the change would push up taxes and squeeze pensions and other government benefits.

Politicians of all parties welcomed the figures, glimpsing the tantalising prospect of a "quick fix" to the country's budget problems. The new inflation numbers recommended by the commission offer a magic wand for boosting growth, raising taxes and shrinking the cost of pensions. But politicians, while salivating at the prospect, were also highly nervous of initiating the changes for fear of unleashing a political storm.

Groups representing the 60 million Americans who receive government pensions and other benefits called on President Clinton not to use the figures as a way of balancing the budget, the biggest problem confronting him in his second term. That would be "a dangerous path to follow", according to Horace Deets of the American Association for Retired Persons.

Mr Clinton has committed himself to making progress on reducing the US's huge deficit — the annual gap between government income and spending — by 2002. The Republican-controlled Congress may also pass a law forcing him to do so.

According to the commission, the Government's measure of inflation has been too high by 1.1 percentage points a year. Instead of inflation of about 3 per cent a year, the real figure is about 1.9 per cent, it said. The new figures also transform the picture of America's growth for the past two decades, showing the economy has not been as sluggish as thought.

Fixing the flaws would cut $148 billion off the budget deficit in 2006, a third of its projected level, according to the Congressional Budget Office, a politically independent forecasting body. National debt would be cut by nearly $700 billion by the same date.

But almost every taxpaying American would see bills rise. Pensioners would have their cost-of-living allowances squeezed by about $100 each year.

The Government currently calculates inflation by looking at the prices of 95,000 goods. Errors have crept in because the present model does not take account of how much products have improved in the past few decades. If the price of a new car or computer doubles but the quality also rises, then it is not accurate to say that the price has really doubled.

The present model also fails to take account of the way consumers buy cheaper products as substitutes when the price of other products rises. When beef costs more, people eat extra chicken.

The commission also recommends taking account of the phenomenon of discount stores that are spreading across America and revolutionising the typical family's shopping habits.

Stores such as Wal-Mart and Price Club, together with warehouse-style wholesale shops, have been enthusiastically greeted by shoppers who flock to them each weekend to shave tens of dollars off their weekly bills.

Neo-Nazi threat to fans

Madrid: The intense rivalry between Real Madrid and Barcelona football clubs — separated by a point — took a sinister turn this week when a neo-Nazi group threatened to "cripple" Barcelona fans at tomorrow's league derby (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Skinhead members of Ultra Sur, a group of far-right Real Madrid hooligans, handed out leaflets saying those wearing Barcelona colours in Madrid would be "dead meat".

China railway kills 27 people

Shanghai: At least 27 people have been killed and nine badly injured by trains on the Peking-Hong Kong railway in the three months since it opened on September 1, the *People's Daily* reported yesterday. Most of the victims were reported to be people living along the railway who were hit as they crossed the tracks. There have been a total of 49 accidents. *(Reuter)*

Yeltsin fixes up Clinton talks

Moscow: President Yeltsin will meet President Clinton in March, probably in the United States. The White House said that Al Gore, the Vice-President, will meet Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, in February to prepare for the summit, agreed during a 20-minute telephone conversation yesterday. *(AP)*

Woman has sextuplets

Huelva, Spain: A woman who became pregnant with eight foetuses with the aid of fertility drugs, has given birth to six babies — four boys and two girls. Doctors induced labour after the death of a second foetus. The first died in the 27th week. *(AP)*

Heroine of the hawks flies higher

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

AP

Madeleine Albright talks to journalists at UN headquarters in New York yesterday

AMERICA'S first female Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, spent her childhood in London during the Blitz and grew up speaking English with a British accent.

The daughter of a Czech diplomat, Ms Albright was born Marie Jana Korbel in Prague in 1937 and spent the war in a small house in the London suburbs. She moved to America in 1948 when her father sought asylum from the Communists who had taken over their homeland.

As America's UN Ambassador for the past four years, the divorced mother-of-three has earned a reputation for quite unladylike bluntness. During her recent feud with Boutros Boutros Ghali, one UN official said the aristocratic UN chief viewed her as an "East European peasant with American crassness".

Although not a professional diplomat, Ms Albright is an astute political operator who studied for her PhD under a future National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and has served a host of senior Democrats, including Adlai Stevenson, Edmund Muskie, Jimmy Carter and Michael Dukakis.

Her tentative performance in her first two years as UN Ambassador earned her scorn from some fellow diplomats and a reputation as Ambassador "Half-Bright" — the same nickname she was given by schoolgirls in her youth. She learnt on the job, however, facing intense Congressional pressure after the death of US servicemen supporting the UN peacekeeping mission in Somalia.

A former university professor and self-described "policy wonk", Ms Albright has a penchant for dreaming up new labels. Early in her term as UN Ambassador, she propounded the theory of "assertive multilateralism", according to which America would leverage its power by working with other states. After the debacle of multilateral peacekeeping in Somalia, she shifted to a theory of "spheres of responsibility" in which each great power would take care of its own backyard. Her current favourite is the "do-ability doctrine", a fancy name for old-fashioned pragmatism. She is also the author of the increasingly popular taxonomy which divides countries into such categories as "failed states", like Somalia, and "rogue states", like Libya and North Korea.

Already a Cabinet member as UN Ambassador, Ms Albright is exquisitely attuned to the tides of opinion in Washington and frequently plays to a domestic audience rather than an international one. Her eagerness to please Congress has led some Democrats to dub her the "Jeane Kirkpatrick of the Left", a reference to President Reagan's highly political UN Ambassador.

With her impeccable anti-Communist credentials, Ms Albright is a hawk on all leading US foreign policy questions and has won a firm following among the Cold Warriors.

She has courted Senator Jesse Helms, the arch-conservative chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, and has travelled to his North Carolina constituency several times. The ageing Southern Senator is clearly charmed by her — he is said to dote on one of her daughters, who is a lawyer in Washington — and will present little challenge to her confirmation as Secretary of State.

She is staunchly pro-Israel and anti-Iraq, and can claim credit for responding quickly to Baghdad's renewed challenge to Kuwait in 1995 and its intervention in the Kurdish-held north this year.

When the Iraqi press described her as a "snake", she poked fun at them by wearing a serpent brooch.

After Cuba's shooting down of two light aircraft flown by protesters from the Miami-based "Brothers to the Rescue", she travelled to Florida to address a sports stadium full of 50,000 outraged Cuban exiles and kept the UN Security Council in session until past midnight to denounce Cuba's action. She forced through a UN resolution authorising a US-led invasion of Haiti, despite the reservations of the UN Secretary-General.

The greatest feather in her cap, however, is Bosnia. Unlike almost any other official of any country, she pursued a consistent policy that eventually yielded success.

Like the good Long Island housewife she used to be, the rotund Ms Albright is perennially worried about her weight. In February she went on a diet and has since then shed 20lb.

Lloyd Webber struggles to close curtain on court drama

BY JAMES BONE

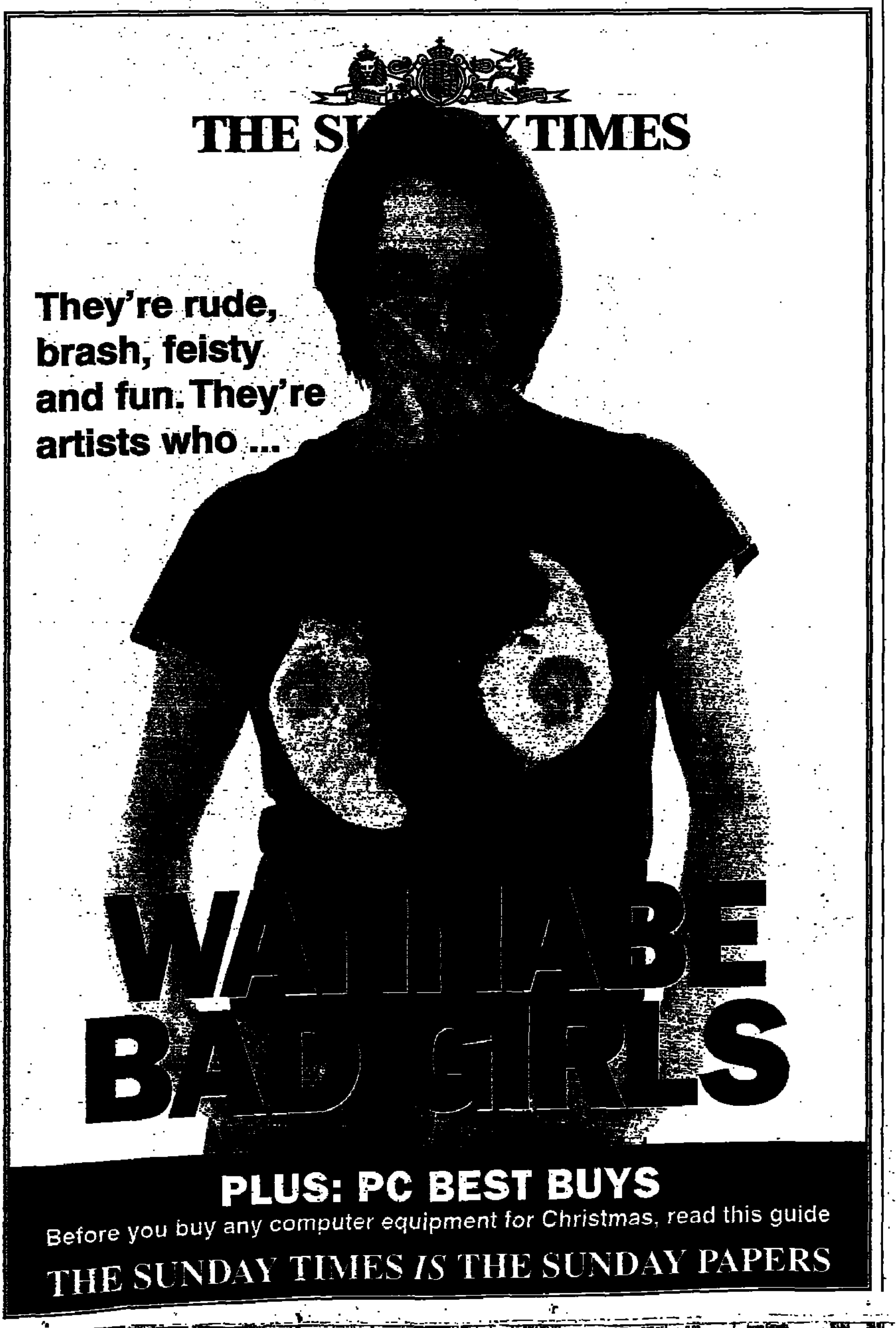
SIR Andrew Lloyd Webber's legal tit-for-tat with an unknown American songwriter is set to become the longest-running musical drama in the New York courts after a judge's decision that seems likely to trigger new appeal cases.

The British composer was sued in 1990 by Ray Repp, an American songwriter, who accused him of plagiarising his religious folk song *Till You* for the theme song of *Phantom of the Opera*.

A former seminarian who now works part-time in a clothing shop, Mr Repp claimed that, because of *Phantom's* extraordinary worldwide success, he deserved tens of millions of dollars in damages. His own song earned total royalties of just $78.09 (about £48).

In 1994, a New York court ruled in Sir Andrew's favour, and Mr Repp was about to appeal when the British composer hit him with a tit-for-tat lawsuit claiming that *Till You* was itself copied from *Close Every Door*, a number in Sir Andrew's 1969 hit musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Judge Shirley Wohl Kram of the US District Court ruled this week, however, that Sir Andrew had failed to prove plagiarism.

Mr Repp's lawyers said they now planned to proceed with an appeal against the 1994 decision. Sir Andrew's lawyers said they might also appeal against the latest ruling.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MARK HARRISON/SKY ONE

Gillian Anderson as Dana Scully: a female lead who has yet to remove any clothing except to put on surgical scrubs

The truth is out there – somewhere

How a sceptic fell prey to the spell of Mulder and Scully and became an X-Phile. **Erica Wagner** confesses

I couldn't help myself. It's my only excuse.

Not so long ago, I gave my credentials as a sceptic in this newspaper; chief among them was my bafflement at the appeal of *The X-Files*. Tosh, I believe, was the word I used. Nonsense, too, sprang to mind, if not quite on to the page. I felt quite superior to the weak-minded millions who had fallen prey to the spell of Mulder and Scully and their exploits among the ghoulies and ghosties and long-legged beasties and things that abduct in the night. I aligned myself firmly with the likes of Dr Richard Dawkins, who, in his recent Richard Dimbleby lecture, scorned the show's pseudoscience and stood firm for the real wonders of the world.

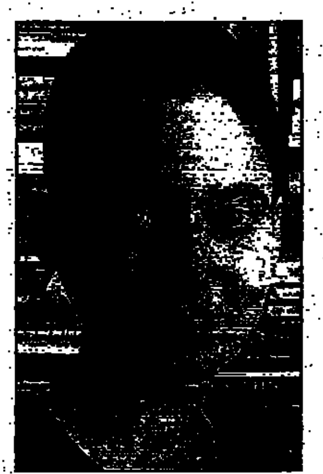
However, in the spirit of cultural inquiry (very pure-spirited) I tried the show again — and again. Or perhaps it was not such a conscious effort. Perhaps I just found myself, come Wednesday evening, plonked in front of the telly with a worthy tome in my hand but without the energy to open it. Perhaps I was guided towards the glowing screen by an implant inserted in my nose by alien beings, or even by evil agents of the American Government.

You can see what's happened now, can't you?

At least I have the comfort of knowing that I am not alone. Yes, of course there are the nearly ten million viewers who watch the show's third season every week on BBC1 (it started on BBC2 as a "cult show", but once viewing figures started racing upwards the switch was made) and the countless others who tune in on Sky One. There is *The X-Files Book of the Unexplained*, Vol. II (Simon and Schuster, £17.99) and *The New Unofficial X-Files Companion* (Macmillan, £9.99); there is *Trust No One: The Official Third Season Guide to The X-Files* (Voyager, £9.99), all sure to bounce into the bestseller lists.

But now there is hard evidence of what we suspected all along — a phrase to make true X-Philes, as they call themselves, slaver. *Deny All Knowledge: Reading the X-Files* appeared this week under the august Faber imprint. Edited by three American academics, David Lavery, Angela Hague and Marla Cartwright, this sober volume is "the first real attempt to examine the significance of the show". The essays contained between its covers, written by professors and doctors of philosophy, have subtitles like *The X-Files, Liminality and Gender Pleasure* and *The Imaginary, Voyeurism and the Symbolic Order in The X-Files*. "Grounded," writes Linda Badley — Professor of English at Middle Tennessee State University — in her essay *The Rebirth of the Clinic: The Body as Alien in The X-Files*, "like Sartre and Todorov, in Western psychology and neurobiology. *The X-Files* sustains a Todorovian hesitation between the physical and the metaphysical that takes openly dialogic form."

In other words, Mulder and Scully — the first with a will to believe, the second with a will to doubt — talk to each other. Fancy that. It is easy to poke fun at this kind of critic-speak, as David Lavery well knows. Lavery, Chair of the English Department at Middle Tennessee State, claims not to be a committed X-Phile (his real passion is revealed in an earlier work, *Full of Secrets: Critical Approaches to Twin Peaks*). He recently gave two parodic critical seminars in Las Vegas ("of all places") on *Baywatch* and *Mr Ed*.



Erica Wagner: stood firm

"Serious as this book is, I will admit that there is something silly in doing a serious study of a television show," he says. "But in the latter half of the 20th century, television will be our culture. Particularly in the United States — if it isn't on television, we don't know it."

If television is our culture, our culture reflects our current preoccupations. Bob Rickard is Editor of *The Fortean Times*, a bi-monthly journal of the paranormal whose circulation has soared in the past four years from 1,800 copies to more than 60,000. "We call it PMT — Pre-Millennial Tension," he says. "It applies to this clustering of weirdness you see now, whether it is a media creation or a genuine increase in a kind of collective madness — perhaps both."

So there I am, vegged out on the sofa, the half-baked emanations of a collective madness overriding my critical faculties. *I want to believe*, trumpets the poster behind Fox "Spooky" Mulder's desk — do I? A recent Church of England report shows us ignoring traditional houses of worship and venturing to astrologers instead; conspiracy theory is rife on the Internet; Stephen Hawking's wish to know the mind of God made his difficult book a bestseller.

I still hold fast to my basic rationality. I'm not watching the skies or building eerie mountains out of mashed potato. Okay, so I like *The X-Files* — not bad writing, pretty cool stories and, oh my goodness, a female lead who has yet to remove any of her clothing — except to put on surgical scrubs.

And yet it is more than that which reels me in. The best stories are the old stories, and small grey visitors from outer space are only the old heroes in another guise. The Truth is, indeed, Out There — the truth of the tales we have told ourselves again and again down the years and the centuries. "The core of *The X-Files* is the encounter with the Other, that elusive — if not illusive — figure who has come to pervade the pages of literary criticism, anthropology and psychoanalysis," writes Leslie Jones in her essay on mythology and the X-Files for *Deny All Knowledge*. The Other is a seductive creature, even when it takes the form of not-particularly-convincing made-for-TV special effects.

That's what converted me. There. I've come clean.

- Deny All Knowledge: Reading The X-Files, *edited by David Lavery, Angela Hague and Marla Cartwright, published by Faber, £8.99*

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Film producer Ismail Merchant's outrageous chutzpah overcomes any adversity

PETER NICHOLLS

Charm, cunning and cuisine: Ismail woos friends with his curries: "I believe in doing things in the most unorthodox manner. That is the way to make your dreams come true."

'Nothing is impossible'

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

As I sit in the Groucho Club with Ismail Merchant, Stephen Fry sprints past and says "Be nice to him won't you" — as if anyone is ever nasty about the world's most popular film producer. Merchant woos actors and financiers by charm, cunning and cuisine; nobody turns him down once they have tasted his *aloo qeema*. Simon Callow says the expression "to curry favour" was invented about Ismail. Every film begins and ends with a feast fit for a nawab, prepared by Ismail.

Merchant and Ivory, the longest collaboration in film history, have given us 37 highly individual films in 35 years. The next one, *Surviving Picasso* (with Sir Anthony Hopkins a perfect Picasso, and Natascha McAlhone, first spotted in *Richard II* at Regent's Park Theatre, absolutely stunning as Françoise Gilot) will be released on Boxing Day. Early in the new year we shall see *The Proprietor*, directed by Merchant and starring Jeanne Moreau.

In the meantime Merchant has written a 69-page introduction to the screenplay of *The Proprietor* (Bloomsbury) because he "thought people would enjoy knowing how a film gets made — and how nothing is impossible".

What we learn is that the *fons et origo* of a film is a combination of nebulous factors: Ismail longs to make another film in Paris; wants Jeanne Moreau, whom he has adored ever since *Jules et Jim*; hears an interesting story about the novelist Marguerite Duras, which becomes the germ of the plot; and finds an amazing, antique-filled 17th century apartment in St Germain (in which he now lives) full of chinoiserie, *trompe-l'oeil* and painted cherubs, which would make a great film set.

Somehow, "focusing the force of my will like a laser beam to make things happen" the film gets made. Ebullient, persuasive, scheming, haggling, wrangling, cajoling, Merchant gets the production together. He tells financiers it is a privilege to invest in his films. If that fails, he threatens them. "I tell them I will come with my Sikh mafiosi," he says, beaming.

This determination and chutzpah is carried through to the outrageous ploys he uses to get locations. When they need a scaffold in Central Park in New York, they borrow one from the film set of *Eraser* — just by walking off with it early one morning. When the Trianon Palace Hotel refuses permission to shoot there, Ismail masquerades as the Maharajah of Jodhpur and marches in with the crew playing his entourage. (He has sent his book to the Maharajah, a friend of his, with a note: "Bapji, please forgive me.")

"What is the point," he asks me, "of being some conventional person? I believe in doing things in the most unorthodox manner. That is the way to make your dreams come true."

East is east and west is west, and Ismail Merchant is where the twain meet. His father was a textile trader in the Bombay bazaars; his mother was illiterate and in purdah. In his childhood the family of nine lived in two rooms. But they became prosperous enough to send Ismail to a Jesuit school, St Xavier's. Urdu was his mother tongue; *In Custody* (based on Anita Desai's novel) which he also directed, was a hymn to the language of the Muslim culture of north India.

Brought up on melodramatic Hindi films and American musicals, he was 19 and a student at New York University when he first saw *Nouvelle Vague* and Satyajit Ray films. (Merchant-Ivory have now restored Ray's films, long neglected and almost destroyed by the climate in India.) In New York he added "Merchant" as a surname and, while still a student, shot — in one weekend — his first 14-minute film, which was nominated for an Oscar.

In 1961 he read *The Householder* by Ruth Prawer Jhabvala. "I put it in my diary: 'this will be my first feature film'." He had not yet met Ruth (he pronounces it Root) or James Ivory, "but it was destiny". Saeed Jaffrey introduced Merchant to Ivory, and the two have been together ever since, sharing a house at Claverack in upstate New York: Ivory elegant and finely hewn, like his name; Merchant excitable and hard-selling, like his.

"Ismail believes there are 90 minutes in every hour and 110 cents in every dollar," as Ivory says.

They call him a wizard. When his star was arrested days before the filming of *The Guru*, Ismail got him out of jail. When the cast of *Heat and Dust* were feeling disgruntled and underpaid, Ismail had a palace opened up and prepared a lavish picnic. "As Nehru said, don't tell me about problems, only solutions. If the day dawns black with rain when you need a blue sky, wringing your hands and saying 'it was written' is no good. See adversity as a blessing in disguise. As Forster said, 'Only connect!' "

Like many Anglophile outsiders, he finds the British inhibited by modesty and self-deprecation. Invited on to a radio programme to discuss Nicola Beauman's E. M. Forster biography, he became enraged when "an uptight academic" questioned the need for another life of Forster. "I said you should be lionising Forster, naming streets after him, he has had nine Oscars! Why not change your character, and be proud? People come to England from outside to take your history, your literature, your actors and technicians, why not enrich and respect the people who have given so much to the rest of the world? Vanessa Redgrave — this country should provide her with money, wealth, gold. You neglect her! How many countries can say that they have a Vanessa Redgrave?"

Working with Jeanne Moreau, Merchant says, was not easy; she writes in a foreword that despite storms and scenes, "Ismail's smile has transformed my life". He tells how he borrowed a brooch for her from Van Cleef & Arpels; stopped the traffic outside the Louvre on a scorching summer afternoon; and took over the Place de la Concorde and shot the Occupation of Paris (for *The Proprietor*) and the Liberation (for *Picasso*) on the same day. "Who else could do that?" he beams.

Ever since Merchant and Ivory got their first award for *Shakespeare Wallah*, in 1966, in Paris, Merchant has longed to have a home base there. Several Paris-based films later (*Quartet, Mr and Mrs Bridge, Jefferson in Paris*) he was last week made an honorary citizen of Paris, along with Ivory and Jeanne Moreau. Merchant has signed up at the Sorbonne to learn French — a student in his 60th year. "Can you imagine? One should prolong education all your life."

> 'Ismail believes there are 90 minutes in every hour'

He says he is not rich; it is such a struggle to get the money even after a film is a success. "The exhibitors, who get the cash at the box office, hold on to it for 45-60 days, then they pay the distributors — who may pay you after several months. But what starts on a film set with actors, crew and screenplay, can end in a courtroom with lawyers, auditors and affidavits. One virtually has to become an assassin to get the money."

Ten years ago, in Channel 4's film examining the way the Merchant-Ivory-Prawer Jhabvala team operates, James Ivory said simply: "If we decide between the three of us that a film is going to get made, it gets made. Our films reflect the strands of all our lives, the places we live and the people we encounter." Hence their cross-cultural products. "Look at our themes," Merchant says. "Why do we do Henry James, Jean Rhys, Forster or V. S. Naipaul? Englishmen in India, Americans in Europe.

"The pleasure is working with friends, at full creativity under your own control. We are in that lucky position. Our purpose is not to get rich but to make movies with talent and passion, that people will respond to and talk about for a long time . . . and that's why, despite the madness, we go on making movies."

Madhur Jaffrey, Merchant Ivory star and rival cook ("I call her the second best," he says), made supper for him in Paris the other day. In his recipe book *Indian Cuisine*, friends write of the flair and inspiration with which he concocts feasts in splendid marquees with lashings of iced champagne. I recall seeing Daniel Day-Lewis, Helena Bonham Carter and Co descend on his canapés at the party he threw after *A Room with a View*. Then there are the gifts he hands out: Tiffany pens, silk Nehru shirts shipped from Bombay. After the shooting of *The Proprietor*, at a banquet at the Plaza Hotel in New York, the screenwriter George Trow gave a toast: "To the most wonderful human being in the world." And Ismail, being Ismail, stood up with a broad smile and said: "That's me."

A whiff of the ocean, a call from the wild

Simon Barnes rejoices in the cormorant, the bird anglers despise

A touch of utter wildness to the most prissy and civilised of spots. Most days, I pass an ornamental lake set in the grounds of a stately home: the sort of thing Bertie Wooster would fall into as he escaped from Madeleine Bassett.

A cormorant descends and assumes the pose of a vulture. Stands as sentinel to the waters: cruciform, black wings spread to dry. And brings with him a whiff of open ocean, a sense of the untamed, a call from the wilderness.

This time of year, they gather at dusk on naked trees and gossip and quarrel and feed and roost and assume heraldic poses in that special spreadeagled cormorantine way. They are slightly majestic, slightly comical, slightly sinister.

And a whiz at fishing. Their feathers have a special adaptation: they work the opposite way to most birds. They release the air; they keep hold of the water. For a cormorant, water does not flow like water off a duck's back. It is ballast, it is their diver's weight-belt. Cormorants swim low in the water, not terribly bouyant, and that means they can get down deep and fast.

The slightly sinister cormorant

Now cormorants eat fish, and fishermen, cheered on by the *Angling Times*, are shooting them. Illegally: but few people take wildlife laws seriously. Fishing people blame cormorants for killing fish. The cormorants, they say, have got to go.

Blaming fish-eating cormorants for depleting fish stocks seems obvious, and shooting and fishing folk have a taste for the obvious. But their logic is like this: every time you find trouble, you find journalists. So if you kill all the journalists, you won't get any trouble.

Ecology is the science of how the various bits of the world fit together. Complex? It is not that we still don't know how many species there are in the world: we don't even know on what order of magnititude to compute them.

Cormorants and fish are just two components of a vast series of interlocking systems, all of which start with the power of the sun and end up with the top predator.

But even if cormorants affected fish stocks, so what? Cormorants are part of British life. They have come inland in recent years, not because there is a plague of them, but because there is food. The gossip around the roosts has obviously been passed on: plenty of good food inland.

The fact is that cormorants have always been inland as well as marine birds. The Stuart kings used to swim cormorants after fish, in the manner of the Chinese, and they employed a cormorant-keeper.

Subsequently, drainage and pollution destroyed much of our inland waters: but since the war, new waters have been created. Many began as pits for gravel extraction, to feed motorway mania. These have created chains of lakes, and many of these have been enthusiastically stocked with fish at artificially high levels. Thus cormorants are reclaiming their inheritance.

People involved in the killing sports always carry on as if they were the only people who understood the countryside and its creatures. But the fact of the matter is that they haven't got a clue.

They also talk about how much they love the open spaces. But the true delight of wilderness is the atavistic sense of sharing a planet with our fellow-beasts. The world was not built purely for human convenience, still less for human recreation. Such wilderness as we have left must be shared. And we must share our lakes with our cormorants. And anyway, it is a poor soul that cannot rejoice in a cormorant: in the black spreadeagled silhouette of cormorant hanging itself out to dry.

SECTION TWO
Diana Ross renews her love affair with Britain
Arts, 36-39

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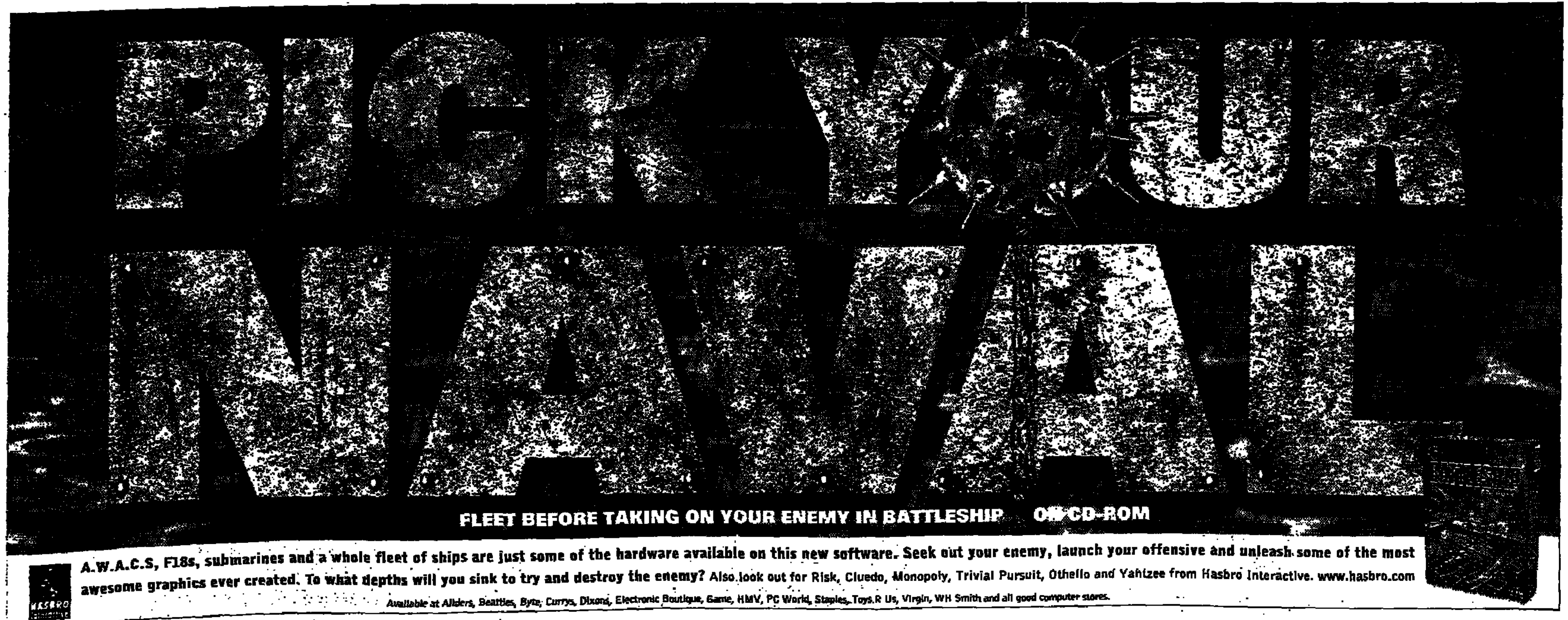

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هكذا في الأصل

Philip Howard

■ Rage, whether on the road or off, is the deadliest sin of all

Road rage is no joke. The young man who was stabbed 15 times and then had his throat cut, for the enormity of overtaking another car, was the fifth death by road rage this year. What more could his butchers have done if he had committed a graver provocation? I resolve to keep myself to myself and the windows closed whenever I am driven in a car. In Athens, city of tin-chariot rage, to raise one's right palm in grateful salute to another motorist is the equivalent of two fingers in English. So when an alien woman driver makes the provocative gesture in Omonia Square in an attempt to signal thanks, the traffic hoots to a halt and turns into the Trojan War.

Now it is possible that our beloved monster the motor car brings out the beast in us. In a similar rage of frustration, rats are said to start eating each other if they are crowded in a laboratory tailback. Perhaps, cocooned in our private cubicles of metal and glass, we think of other road-users as aliens through the screen of a video game, to be zapped. The alliterative phrase "road rage" is only two years old. But it is neither a new offence nor a modern condition.

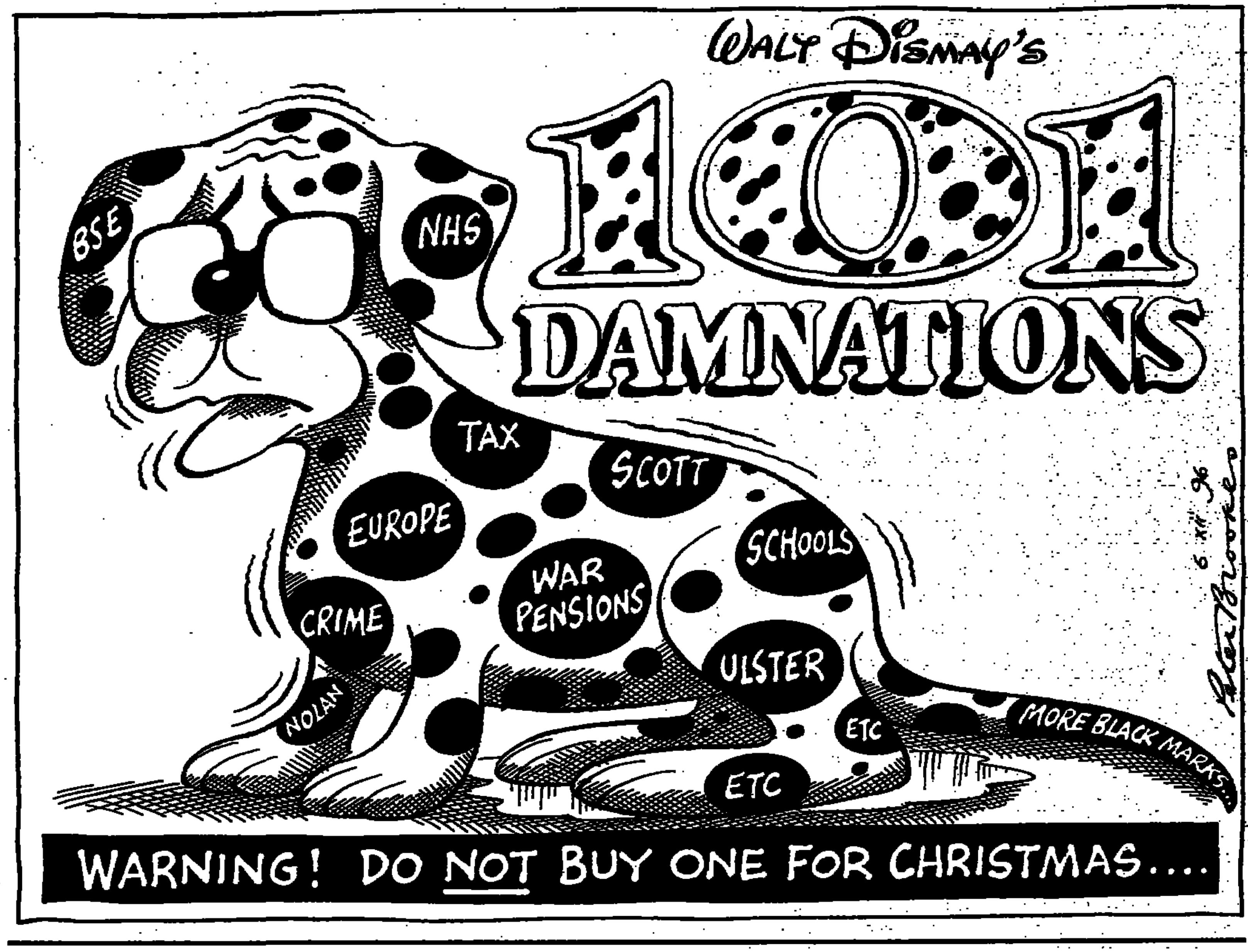
For rage is the deadliest of the seven deadly sins. Sloth can be a virtue, gluttony may be a vice, lust is the motor of human survival, a good kind of pride is a cement of civil society. But rage is the hot opposite of envy and avarice, and it can be even madder and more destructive than those cold sins. Not for nothing do its etymological roots grow out of madness. Not for nothing does *Prison Patter*, the dictionary of prison slang published today, give almost as many words for "to go into one" (get into a violent rage) as it has for Dr Whos (screws) and woofters (also rhyming slang). For rage is a condition of the criminal and uneducated (not exclusively). Those who cannot control their tempers should never be licensed to control the simpler machinery of a motor car.

On his guided tour of Hell, Dante looked on sinners more in sorrow than in anger. Some of them, such as Paolo and Francesca, and Dante's old "tutor", the bugger Bruno Latini, turn into tragic heroes, as Satan became the doomed hero of *Paradise Lost*. But the vilest punishment, continually being dunked in slurry, is reserved for the bad-tempered. And Dante makes his only gloating remark to Virgil: "Master, I should really like to see that man [Filippo Argenti] pushed down into the soup before we get away from the lake." Filippo is, and he bites into his own flesh in rage. Dante must have hated him. For he earns another mention in Paradise: "That outrageous family which is a dragon / To anyone who shrinks from it, but like a lamb / To anyone who shows his teeth, or his purse." In the *Decameron*, Boccaccio sums Filippo up as "more foul-tempered than any other citizen of Florence".

Rage is the primeval sin of the Old Testament, epic and tragedy. Without insane rage there would be no *King Lear*, *Winter's Tale* or *Cymbeline*. Rage is the secondary tragic flaw of both Othello and of Hamlet (when he sticks poor old Polonius in the arras). Rage is the theme as well as the first word in the *Iliad*. Pope tinkled the rage of Achilles, "Nor yet the Rage his boiling Breast forsook." This strikes an echo from Bottom's very tragical mirth: ". . . with bloody blameful blade, / He bravely broach'd his boiling bloody breast."

Because of rage, Hippolytus was torn to pieces by runaway horses. Hercules and Agamemnon went mad with it. "Angry Young Men" was an inexact label for anti-Establishment writers. There was much more to them than rage. But John Osborne, Kingsley Amis and (you could say, if you must) Colin Wilson made art out of anger and characters who were angry. So did Evelyn Waugh.

But although anger can make art, there is no excuse for rage in life or on the road. Abraham Lincoln wrote furious letters when angry. He had a good time writing them and it made him feel better. Then he burnt the raging letter and wrote another. Rage is the most inhuman of sins. The fact that it is "road rage" does not diminish its nastiness or the responsibility.



Hitler's martial Jews

Jewish and part-Jewish soldiers fought for the Third Reich. What did they think they were doing? We shall never know

Bernard Levin

When will the Holocaust be the Holocaust, in all its terrible meaning and no more? When will professors stop finding a new "angle" on something that can never have an angle? When will the dreadful fools and madmen who prove that there was no Holocaust (I have just got another pamphlet saying as much), stop hating and even stop being mad?

Never, I fear, but I have long ago given up trying to convince fools and professors that my nose is of standard British length and width and no more. Wearily, I shrug, and say, yes, I am a Jew, and no, no member of my family died in the Holocaust. And, just to clinch it, no — my name has always been Levin, and never Featherstonhaugh-Golightly.

Now then. What would you say if Adolf Hitler were on his throne and the Holocaust was in full blast, but German Jews were not only serving in Hitler's ranks, but personally enlisting in those ranks. Not just to find a place that the Nazis might not spot, but with full intent to take part in the war on Hitler's side? It sounds lunatic, and in a sense it was. But read this:

> It seems that those Jewish Germans who enlisted voluntarily and made efforts to remain in uniform even after their Jewish origins came under scrutiny by the authorities were allowed to do so. Indeed, some rose to high rank and several won the *Ritterkreuz*, the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross, Germany's highest military decoration, awarded to fighter aces, U-boat captains and tank destroyers. They performed their feats of bravery at the height of the war, when the Nazi state was murdering German Jews in hundreds of thousands and the Jews of Eastern Europe in millions.
>
> Only they can explain why they chose the path they did, and all are now old or already dead.

These almost unbelievable facts were dug up by a young American student, Bryan Rigg, who, in a chance meeting, was to reveal some of the most extraordinary true stories of the Second World War. Rigg did not even know, before he began his studies in this fascinating story, that he was of German-Jewish ancestry, but believed his family was of the Protestant Bible-belt, and among his amazements were the members of his family who had stayed in Germany and died in the Holocaust.

And now, with this extraordinary story at our elbows, we are tempted to believe that the whole thing is, and must be, a hoax. But it isn't. It is not only true, from top to bottom, it is terrible. Terrible, you say? Just glance at one headline (the story broke in *The Daily Telegraph*), reading "Why men of Jewish blood shed it for Adolf Hitler". Answer that.

I can't. Nor can anybody else. I am a Jew, and thus to be hated by Nazis; very well, I understand that, and shrug. But Mr Rigg has not just found a cache of almost unbelievable matter about Hitler's Reich and its evil madness, he has pointed a dagger at some of the newly known facts of the Holocaust, and — well, let me say it again: "Why men of Jewish blood shed it for Adolf Hitler". For they did, they did, they did.

Have you ever heard of Major Robert Borchardt? No? Nor had I until very recently. He was a half-Jew, and a very brave man, and a very great fighter on Hitler's side. He did not commit atrocities, nor did he allow them in his units. He fought in Russia, in Rommel's Afrika Korps, and he was strewn with medals. Not long before he died, he spoke to the children of his old school, and this is what he said: "Many German Jews and half-Jews who fought in the First World War and even in the Second World War believed that they should honour their Fatherland by serving in the military." And many of them did.

But what I want to know, and I imagine many others want to know, is *what did Jews think they were doing when they were fighting for Hitler?* Take the remarkable story — a perfectly true story — of the way Rabbi Schneerson was saved from the Nazis. The rabbi was the leader of the most ultra-orthodox Jews, and when the war broke he was trapped, and very likely to be killed by Hitler. There was a plea from the United States to let the Rabbi Schneerson go. It was touch and go; but then another German Jew, fighting in the war on the side of Hitler, took a hand: he was a very high officer, Ernst Bloch, who had fought in the First World War, and Schneerson was saved.

And saved in the most macabre manner imaginable. Admiral Canaris recruited Bloch, and then Hitler made the world go round the other way; with a half-Jew staring him in his face, Hitler read the appropriate document: "I, Adolf Hitler, leader of the German nation, approve Major Ernst Bloch to be of German blood. However, after the war, Ernst Bloch will be re-evaluated to see if he is still worthy to have such a title." (Who said Hitler was sane?)

But still the question must be asked and answered, why men of Jewish blood shed it for Adolf Hitler.

Most of those men are now dead, and the dead cannot speak. If they could speak, what might they say? There would be many who would say "I didn't know — how could I know? The whole world was there, and nobody knew — nobody knew what that man called Hitler would do to the world and millions upon millions."

Not enough. Not enough. You, the ones who were there, could see. Oh no, very few indeed could have guessed the whole of the madness (though even that could have been spotted and *was* by the tiny number who could read *Mein Kampf* from beginning to end), but that was not enough.

Very well, not enough. What next? We must try to think into the minds of the survivors, and what they did and what lies they told. There is a very old man, 82 and failing, who has asked for anonymity; he shall have it. But he says that he served 6½ years in Hitler's military, and became a captain. Presumably he drew the curtains when a Nazi went by.

That's small fry. What about a real field marshal, a good friend of Goering and indeed a very important figure in the Nazi camp, for it was he who made the Luftwaffe the tremendous thing it became. That was Field Marshal Milch, and he was a Jew. But a field marshal, surely, should know better. And so should a Jew.

Surely should? Did. *Did*. We come back to where we started. But not quite. For we now know the massive quantities of horror that poured out of Bryan Rigg's find. (It was luck, of a kind: he had just come out of a cinema and started to chat to another cinema-goer, a German, whereupon they began to speak, and the other man spoke of his life, whereupon "they talked until dawn". I bet they did.)

We come back to where we started yet again. What were real Jews or even half-Jews (and there were many of these) doing with Adolf Hitler? True, there were people who saw through Hitler very quickly, but were sure that he would be a busted flush in no time. Well, he wasn't, and in the end the blood poured copiously. And there was no shortage of important people; Helmut Schmidt, who became the Chancellor of West Germany for eight years, had when somewhat younger been very much in the wrong place.

This is yet another question that cannot be answered unless the dead rise from the grave to give the answers. It would be dreadful to say that the dead deserved what they got, because they didn't. Again, we hear the terrible words — how could we have known?

Perhaps the most pitiful or most deserved — you can take it either way — is that of Milch, the one who was "a personal friend of Hermann Goering". And instantly the thunder rolls; how does a Jew become a personal friend of Hermann Goering, and more to the point, why is he prepared to be one in the first place?

Milch was tried and convicted in the Nuremberg war trials; his Jewishness did not help him, and he was imprisoned for ten years. But again and again, we ask the question, the question that cannot be answered. What was a Jew, or a half-Jew, doing with Adolf Hitler? God forbid that I should take sides in such a dreadful argument. It is enough that almost all the people concerned are now dead. But if they came to life, would they not instantly go back into the shades?

The soul of society in action

Michael Howard unveils the Philip Lawrence Awards

This Sunday's memorial service will mark the first anniversary of the death of Philip Lawrence, the headteacher murdered at the gates of his London school. His brutal death shocked the nation, but the courage and dignity with which his widow has responded to the tragedy has been an inspiration. In this newspaper on October 21, Frances Lawrence set out her manifesto for the nation. It touched the conscience of many, reminding us of the importance of individual morality, of citizenship, of strong families and strong communities. It won widespread and impassioned support.

I was not surprised by this response. This country has a strong spirit of good citizenship. Self-reliance has always been part of the national character, but so too has the desire to help others. The nation's generosity of spirit is demonstrated frequently. And as well as giving money, ordinary men and women of all ages choose to give their time and effort for the benefit of others. This country has around 23 million regular volunteers. I have met many people who give their time in this way — Neighbourhood Watch organisers, community volunteers, special constables, young people involved in crime prevention work. Their selfless actions go to the heart of good citizenship.

But the ideal of citizenship involves even more than helping others in practical ways. It involves commitment to the nation's moral health. This means setting an example, praising what is good without cynicism, and condemning what is bad without equivocation. Nowhere is this more important than in raising children. There is no greater influence for good than giving the young a sound moral framework for their lives.

In a free society we do not always agree on every moral question. People may disagree over details. And people of conscience with different religious and cultural backgrounds may hold different views on some points. But part of being a nation is sharing basic moral values. Many of these were set out in Mrs Lawrence's manifesto: abhorrence of violence, the importance of the family, the value of respect for the moral and physical guardians of our young. And the imperative of giving children the best possible start in life.

Giving our children the best does not mean just providing material comforts. It means bringing them up within loving and supportive families and helping them to develop fully into moral agents. It also means setting them a challenge. We should encourage, in the words of Mrs Lawrence, their effort, earnestness and excellence. By encouraging a child to take responsibility for himself, we help inculcate a sense of responsiblity for others. By developing a child's self-respect, we help him to learn respect for others. As G.K. Chesterton put it, "education is simply the soul of society as it passes from one generation to another".

Regeneration has to start with the individual. The application of the law cannot be a substitute for the individual's sense of moral responsibility. Nor can the words of politicians or religious leaders, however deeply felt, take the place of individual morality.

Government alone cannot meet the challenge set by Frances Lawrence, but the lead it gives is important. That is why the Government is determined to do what it can to translate her manifesto into practical proposals. In *The Times* on October 22, I announced that we would establish an annual award in Mr Lawrence's memory. This will mark outstanding achievement in citizenship by young people who have helped society through such activities as tackling bullying or taking a stand against drugs.

I plan to launch the award scheme in March. This will highlight examples of good citizenship by young people, illustrating the sort of achievement worthy of an award. We will then seek nominations and make the first awards in December 1997, on the second anniversary of Philip Lawrence's death.

The Government has cross-party support for the Philip Lawrence Memorial Awards, and many organisations, such as the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Citizenship Foundation, the Commission for Racial Equality, Community Service Volunteers, Crime Concern, the Prince's Trust and Youth Clubs UK have given helpful advice. It is important that the awards complement the various award and grant schemes already in existence.

Today I am asking voluntary and youth groups to help us develop my proposals further. I hope that many will respond with support and ideas.

The awards are designed to highlight the achievements of young people who demonstrate outstanding citizenship, and to encourage others to follow their example. Too often we hear about the crimes and misdemeanours of young people, the bad manners of children, the apathy of youth. But this picture is misleading. Most young people are law-abiding. Most have a strong moral sense. And very many are actively involved in voluntary work, trying to improve the lives of those around them.

The Philip Lawrence Memorial Awards will commemorate the life of an inspirational man. They will commend young people who exemplify the civic virtues that Philip Lawrence encouraged and inculcated during his life's work. I hope the scheme will play a part in helping to raise the next generation of good citizens.

The author is Home Secretary.

Clive live

A CHARMING MAN, Clive Anderson, the TV presenter and barrister — so the schoolmarmish Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley thought when she sat next to him at a recent gala dinner hosted by the BBC.

Mrs B joined such swoony BBC types as Peter Sissons and John Birt at the event; Anderson seemed a convivial dining companion. But Virginia had to leave early for a vote in the House of Commons. At which point Anderson let rip.

His wife, Jane, had worked as a consultant at Bart's Hospital in London, an institution which Bottomley decided to close when she was Health Secretary. Anderson started cracking jokes: "If you want treatment, you should wrap yourself in a fur coat and ask for Rolf Harris," he laughed, referring to the Australian's television show about animal doctors.

He was in full flow — "If you want to get an X-ray, it's quicker to go down to Heathrow than to hospital" — when back into the room and into earshot walked Mrs B — a disappointed woman.

● *England's thrashing at the hands of the Mashonaland chicken farmers' XI may have shaken the MCC, but not the Zimbabwean High Commission. A call to congratulate them on their seven-wicket victory was met by a long pause, then: "Victory? Party? No sir, there is no party here. Everyone has gone home."*

Still vicious

NO CHANCE of détente between the writer Amanda Craig and her old boyfriend, the critic David Sexton, who considered himself maligned in Craig's sulphuric portrait of literary London, *A Vicious Circle*.

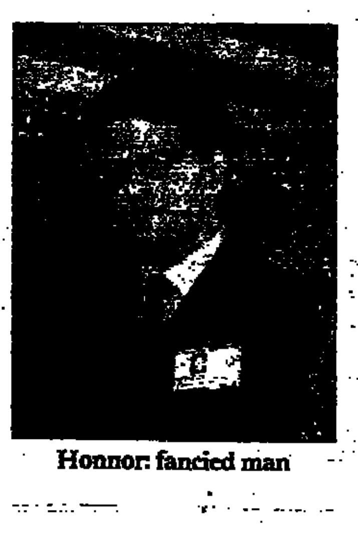
At the delayed launch of the book on Wednesday evening, she said crime-writer friends had offered to supply the names of out-of-work SAS men should the need arise: "You know, if things get really tricky . . ." she says, making a slicing motion across her neck.

"Illegal pensioners coming ashore on Torquay beach"

● *Votes are in for the annual government special adviser beauty contest, and the winner is . . . Andrew Honnor, Virginia Bottomley's man. Tall, dark and completely au fait with the National Lottery, Honnor won particular support over at the Department of Transport. No one can recall such simmering sexuality among the special advisers since the days of David "Treat Me" Ruffley, now the Tory candidate for Bury St Edmunds, and formerly special adviser to Kenneth Clarke. "Fantastic," Ruffley is said to have roared when he moved with his boss from Health to the Home Office. "Home will be great for my pulling power."*

Left hook

JOY JOHNSON has struck back at Labour. The party's former director of communications, who resigned acrimoniously last year, writes scathingly in this week's *New Statesman* of the mess Labour found itself in this summer over its Scottish referendum plans.



Honnor: fancied man

The sort of Eton-cropped blonde capable of laddering tights with her stare, Miss Johnson says, "It is a tale of dramatic changes in tactics, a tale of the party leadership's lack of openness with its foot-soldiers".

Then, with another swipe at the party high-ups with whom she found it impossible to work, she adds: "The strain of authoritarianism of which the leadership is accused runs through all levels of the party."

● *After ousting Sir Nicholas Scott, Tories in Kensington and Chelsea are faced with the spectre of Winston Churchill, MP for Davyhulme. No more convenient a moment for Churchill to sound off about war pensions and their cutbacks could have arisen. His seat disappears in the boundary changes and he has been rejected by virtually everybody. K & C, stuffed full of colonels and war widows, may be his last chance.*

No match

FORGET Knightsbridge and Notting Hill, Britain's fashion centre these days is Gloucestershire, home turf of the Blows. Where it used to feature a twee young girl in pearls, *Country Life* this week has a picture of Selina Blow, designer, gazing out over her family acres, dressed in one of her trademark velvet jackets, a tall Mister Man style purple hat and unmatching shoes.

Selina: that hat

Miss Blow, the grand-daughter of the architect Detmar Blow is the sister-in-law of Issy Blow, stylist extraordinaire and known to Princess Margaret as "Hiaaat" on account of her eclectic headwear. As to the conundrum of Miss Blow's odd shoes, it turns out, sadly, that they are not a Christmas fashion statement. When the photographer arrived, she simply couldn't find a matching pair.

P·H·S

هكذا من الاصل

A LABOUR EUROPE

Blair still evades Major's grasp — and Brussels is helping

Next week's Dublin summit will demonstrate to the public what negotiators already know. The inter-governmental conference (IGC) to review the Maastricht treaty is proceeding, deliberately, at a snail's pace. The United Kingdom's partners in the European Union are determined to avoid any showdown with Britain before the general election.

The greatest fear in Brussels is that over the coming months the Labour Party will rush to join John Major in any foxhole which the Prime Minister decides to occupy, thus limiting its post-electoral freedom of manoeuvre. On the assumption of a Labour victory, officials are therefore trying to keep the foxholes undug, allowing Tony Blair to enter the final peace talks having made as few electoral commitments as possible and with maximum flexibility as a consequence.

The Dutch, who take over from Ireland next month and were originally expected to conclude the IGC negotiations, are hinting that because it would not be fair to expect Mr Blair to reach a final IGC deal within weeks of taking over, the entire timetable for a revised treaty might be set back by months for Britain's benefit. The IGC text circulated to governments yesterday by the Irish presidency is consistent with this waiting game. It does not pretend to be a draft treaty; it is notable for what it leaves out: and it is even more notable for the phrase that runs through it like a religious mantra — "to be dealt with at a later stage".

Noel Dorr, Ireland's IGC chairman, blandly claims that too little progress has been made even to attempt a synthesis of views on such contentious areas as the extension of qualified majority voting and the right of each country to have a EU Commissioner. The main exception, the proposal to centralise control over visa, asylum and immigration policies, will encounter solid British resistance. But it will not open up a Conservative-Labour rift, because this is one of the few areas on which Labour has not only spelt out its position but agrees with the Government that these are issues for sovereign states.

Despite Tory tauntings, Labour may even be able to avoid committing itself on the draft chapter that would commit EU governments to coordinate their employment policies. The Irish text is careful to refer to broad objectives, instead of setting explicit targets for getting people back to work.

From beginning to end runs the theme that deeper integration is a precondition for EU enlargement; Britain is identified in paragraph after paragraph as the grit in the federalist wheel. Mr Major needs to force Labour into the open on what its position will be on these items that are asterisked provisional, marked to be discussed, or merely summarise disagreements. Mr Blair will try to continue with his stock response that the questions are, for now, hypothetical.

Labour's only formal position paper on the IGC, published some 14 months ago, does contain prisoners for the Prime Minister to take. It still stands, for example, by the revealing phrase: "we reject permanent opt-outs". Where then does it stand on Britain's opt-out on economic and monetary union? Is it destined, under Labour, as those words suggest, to be strictly temporary?

But Labour also presents a frustrating target for Mr Major. The Shadow Cabinet is in a state of deep denial over Europe. It cannot face bothering with any EU business that it does not expect to be a "wedge issue" in next year's election campaign. It was only because the referendum on a single currency was judged to be such an issue that Labour belatedly matched the Tory pledge.

The IGC, about which there will be much fuss in the coming week, is not, of course, where the stakes are highest. The countries intending to join EMU in 1999 are making Europe's most important constitutional moves. As our Economics Editor argues on page 29, the proposed EMU stability pact could be as politically destructive as were the war reparations exacted from Germany under the Treaty of Versailles.

CLINTON'S CHOICES

The President has taken risks with his foreign policy team

After a painful period of public indecision, President Clinton has decided upon the officials who will guide US foreign policy during his second term. His choice of Senator William Cohen, a Republican, as Defence Secretary will be applauded. The selection of Samuel Berger, currently Deputy National Security Adviser, to fill the top position there represents continuity. The Central Intelligence Agency will not regard the arrival of Anthony Lake as Director with much enthusiasm but the CIA, largely deprived of a function since the Cold War's demise, is in distinct decline. Most attention will fall on the elevation of Madeleine Albright, currently US Permanent Representative to the United Nations, to the post of Secretary of State.

Ms Albright has been a controversial figure at the UN. Her highly abrasive manner has caused difficulties with America's allies as well as her foes. The appointment will be regarded as the triumph of one of the most improbable partnerships in American political history: that between Hillary Clinton, the liberal-inclined First Lady, and Senator Jesse Helms, the ultra-conservative Republican Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Mrs Clinton supported Ms Albright largely because of her gender. The North Carolina Senator is an admirer of her undiplomatic style.

The new Secretary of State will bring great energy to her portfolio. Inevitably though she will be seen as a political creature of the President rather than an independent figure in her own right. Had Mr Clinton picked either former Senator George Mitchell or outgoing Senator Sam Nunn that would not have been the case. Both men had been respected leaders in Congress, commanding bi-partisan respect in Washington and thus instant attention abroad. Ms Albright will be regarded with much more suspicion. Furthermore, her selection looks curious considering the emphasis that the President placed on economics during his recent Asian tour. Even her most ardent admirers would not count international trade as one of her strong points.

Ms Albright is not a uniquely unusual choice. Dean Rusk and William Rogers, who served under Presidents Kennedy and Nixon, were almost unknown to Congress and most citizens of the United States before assuming their portfolio. John Foster Dulles, under Dwight Eisenhower, and Alexander Haig, for Ronald Reagan, were bombastic characters for friend and foe alike. Nonetheless, Ms Albright will have to deal with the perception that she has won the most senior post in American international relations for reasons more related to Washington politics than the wider world. She must overcome that assumption to be effective on the global stage.

Either by accident or design the President's decisions may contain the broader message that he intends to be rather more actively engaged in foreign policy in his second term. That has often been true of re-elected Presidents, especially those whose domestic style is cramped by a hostile Congress. In that case, Mr Clinton could have decided that loyalty to him personally was the supreme requirement of his surrogates. But for the world, the price is continued uncertainty about what the next four years will bring.

MUSEUM OF FIRE

Why the scholars need at least a few accountants

To all friends of the British Museum — among whom *The Times* certainly counts itself — Andrew Edwards's management report, detailed on page six today, must be deeply disturbing. Just as people are often most deeply hurt by those they know best, institutions too are most vulnerable to those who understand which slight or sally will worst wound them. If the British Museum had hired a management consultant to advise on how to deal with its financial deficit, their inquiry might have reached similar conclusions. But the language might have been more brutal and more easily dismissed as unworthy.

Mr Edwards is a retired senior Treasury official: he sees all too well how the public service works. Although his feelings are restrained and his voice is nowhere raised, he was all too plainly appalled by what he found. His accumulation of implied disapproval leaves an unambiguous impression of how one of the world's most prized cultural collections has been managed. When Mr Edwards remarks almost in passing that "the Museum does not at present employ any qualified accountants", the implications of this observation take a few extra moments to sink in. When Mr Edwards says that the Museum's information technology for financial control is "a huge impediment to progress", he leaves the reader to guess whether he found officials using abacuses, Victorian cash registers or simply a hotch-potch of modernity.

The desperate urgency that pervades the Edwards report is more important than its detailed conclusions. Condensed and translated out of polite Whitehall language, Mr Edwards might be summarised thus: "Pay attention in Bloomsbury! Time and money are short. Your aims are muddled. Your management structure and culture looks outdated even by the standards of the Pharaohs. Your scholar-curators are proliferating and out of control. Most of the world's great museums — and you are the greatest of all — charge an entrance fee and you will do the same unless you can come up with a better money-raising idea. But I have not found many people with that sort of fire and firmness in this building so far."

The Museum slipped Mr Edwards's report into the public domain last month, hoping that "constructive discussion" would ensue, but also disagreeing over the need to impose entrance charges. The only public discussion to date has been a predictable slanging match over the charges issue. If the Museum's staff feel that Mr Edwards is unfair, let them say so. They would demonstrate that Great Russell Street was in boisterous health. If they cannot do so, change must quickly come. When the Museum's trustees meet this weekend, they must ensure that this message is grasped.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

When the police exceed their brief

From Mr Stanley Best

Sir, You quote today a chief detective inspector as stating that he will "investigate what legal steps could be taken" to increase the two-year sentence on the two girls convicted of the manslaughter of Louise Allen.

The officer should be reminded that the police have no responsibility for appealing sentences. It is for the Attorney-General, not the police, to consider whether a sentence is unduly lenient.

Police officers of all ranks must resist the temptation to conduct "investigations" of this kind or to express themselves as "extremely disappointed" (or otherwise) at verdict or sentence. Their duty is to prevent crime, to detect what they cannot prevent, and to bring those charged to court — subject to the power of the Crown Prosecution Service which may elect not to proceed.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY BEST,
As from: Bracton Chambers,
95a Chancery Lane, WC2.
December 3.

From Mr Michael B. Ward

Sir, I was surprised at the Police Complaints Authority's decision not to proceed with disciplinary action against the two police officers who arrested a Nigerian asylum seeker, Mr Oluwashijibomi Lapite (News in brief, December 3).

Mr Lapite died after having been placed in a neck-lock during a struggle and one of the police officers admitted at the inquest that he had kicked Lapite in the head, albeit in self-defence.

In the same edition of the paper you report "Police protest as girls get two years for fatal kicking". In this instance two girls, aged 12 and 13 at the time of the attack, pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of a third young girl after deliberately kicking her about the head.

Whilst I would not condone the actions of the girls, I would suggest that, at such an age, they may not have been fully aware of the fatal consequences that could result from their violent actions. The same could hardly be said of police officers — even though, as in the Lapite incident, they were the attacked rather than the attackers.

Yours, with deep concern,
M. WARD,
113 Goodhart Way,
West Wickham, Kent.
December 3.

Divided Ireland

From Mr David W. Bleakley

Sir, You are right to remind Tony Blair that a Labour government "would be preoccupied by Ulster too" (leading article, December 2).

Mr Blair's fellow socialists in Northern Ireland wish him well and are anxious to help; but we can best do so only when we are given the right to join the British Labour Party.

Mr Blair could do himself and the people of Northern Ireland a great deal of good by persuading his party to reverse its ban on membership by citizens from the region. Such action would also remove a piece of discrimination which should have no place within a truly modern Labour Party.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BLEAKLEY
(Minister of Community Relations,
Stormont, 1972),
8 Thornhill, Bangor, Co Down.
December 3.

From Mr M. G. Harman

Sir, Your leader of November 29, "Major's commitment", says that the IRA ceasefire must stop "all military operations — including training, restocking of terrorist arsenals, punishment beatings, and preparatory surveillance".

When did punishment beatings become accepted as military operations?

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL HARMAN,
Holmwood, 37 Upper Park Road,
Camberley, Surrey.
December 1.

A choral composer

From Dr Edward Higginbottom

Sir, Your obituary of Bernard Rose (November 30) is an engaging picture of a remarkable figure in British musical life. It is perhaps a little light on his accomplishment as a composer. In the choral field few have shown his degree of sensitivity to the medium: his setting of the evening responses will endure alongside those of Byrd, and few have written works of such exquisite poise as his *Feast Song for St Cecilia*.

We sang this in New College Chapel on St Cecilia's Day, only hours after Rose's death. It served beyond any words to remind us what his craft and inspiration have bequeathed to British choral music.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD HIGGINBOTTOM
(The Organist and Tutor in Music),
New College, Oxford.
December 3.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Tory policy on museum funding

From the Minister of State, Department of National Heritage

Sir, The perception that the British Museum's financial difficulties are entirely due to a decline in government funding and to the moving of the British Library to St Pancras (letters, November 21, 25, 28, December 2) is not supported by an independent report commissioned by the Trustees of the British Museum itself, and made publicly available by them last month.

That report identifies a number of causes over many years, and recommends essential improvements to the organisational structure, management and efficiency of the museum, to strengthen its financial position ("Are we pressing the wrong Buttons?", Arts, November 30).

It is misleading to suggest, as Isabel Carlisle does ("The case for free museums", November 28), that "the pattern of allocation of funds to national museums and galleries" reveals that "the Government intends to end the principle of free admission". This is simply not the case.

Since the last general election, out of the total sum granted to national museums and galleries, the share given by the Government to the non-charging museums has in fact increased. The allocations announced in last week's Budget will see their share grow further over the coming three years.

In deciding allocations this year, we have protected the funding of those who have benefited less from recent settlements and have made greater strides in improving their efficiency. We have also directed support towards areas of greater need. It is for this reason that, against all predictions, the Government has agreed to compensate the British Museum in full for the future loss of receipts from the British Library.

Any decision on admission charges will be made by the Trustees of the museum, and not by the Government. The Trustees are appointed to manage the British Museum independent of government, and they are therefore best placed to consider admission arrangements in the light of the museum's unique financial circumstances.

Last July Government published *Treasures in Trust*, its first review of museums policy in 60 years. Nobody who had read this review, and the radical reforms it proposes, can be in any doubt about the Government's strong commitment to the essential role of museums in our society.

Yours faithfully,
IAIN SPROAT,
Department of National Heritage,
2-4 Cockspur Street, SW1.
December 3.

Selection of UN Secretary-General

From Lord Judd, Senior Fellow of Saferworld

Sir, Amidst all our neurosis about Europe it is easy to forget that Britain is still a major player in the world stakes. As one of only five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Britain has a special responsibility to help lead the debate on the selection of the next UN Secretary-General (leading article, "All at sea", December 3).

You are right to call the present selection process a farce. Initially all we had was the US brandishing its veto. Now a fundamental quality apparently needed for what is the most demanding chief executive's job in the world is to be an African. This is nonsense, every bit as much as it would be if an essential requirement was to be Anglo-Saxon.

We must not let political posturing blind us. The present dilemma provides a vital opportunity to evaluate the challenges facing the UN and, therefore, the qualities needed in its leader to help the organisation meet them. Yet this is being missed.

The crisis in central Africa has again demonstrated that the problems of the world today require a global response. The new leader must be able to articulate this and convince member states that isolationism is not in their own interest.

Governments need to be shown that the UN is an organisation worth supporting. This will require a Secretary-General who is a skilful administrator capable of cutting through bureaucracy and assuring member states that their resources will not be lost to self-indulgent officialdom. Fundamentally the Secretary-General must be an inspiring figure capable of eliciting the financial support and the quality of personnel which the UN so badly needs.

Britain's prestigious place on the Security Council demands a lead on these vital issues. If we don't help to provide it, the argument may well grow for us to move over and make way for someone else.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK JUDD,
Senior Fellow, Saferworld,
3rd Floor, 33-34 Alfred Place, WC1.
December 4.

Planning for disaster

From Sir John Blelloch

Sir, In a year that has seen major disasters such as those in Dunblane and Manchester as well as the Channel Tunnel fire and oil pollution from the Sea Empress on the Welsh coast, the money local authorities receive towards making adequate response arrangements has again been cut by the Home Office following the Budget. This should be a major cause of concern to the public.

The work of local authority emergency planners is the public's insurance policy for coping when things go wrong. Across the country well rehearsed arrangements, made in close co-operation with all who have a part to play, seek to ensure that an effective response is available at all times. As recently as 1991-92 the government grant for this work nationwide amounted to £25.1 million. This grant has been eroded year on year, resulting in a figure for 1997-98 of under £15 million. This is less than the Government spends on its entertainment budget.

Cuts of such magnitude inevitably compromise emergency planning activity and jeopardise the effectiveness of the response to future major emergencies. This should be of grave concern to the public, because it is they who stand to suffer the next time disaster strikes.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BLELLOCH
(President, Emergency
Planning Society),
PO Box 9697, London, NW6 4HS.
December 2.

Saving St Pancras

From the Director of The Victorian Society

Sir, Lord Ampthill (letter, December 3; see also letter, November 29) rightly draws attention to the time given by Parliament to the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill. However, the "contractually binding undertakings and agreements" with London & Continental Railways (LCR) to which he refers bind them to practically nothing, as far as works to the Grade I St Pancras Station are concerned. The Heritage Agreement, which replaces normal listed building procedures in the Rail Link Bill, is freedom dressed up as control. LCR must consult with English Heritage but in most circumstances can disregard their advice.

No one doubts LCR's good intentions and the potential benefits to St Pancras. But proper safeguards are still essential for a Grade I listed building. If the project were to run into financial difficulties, as Eurotunnel did, the temptation to cut corners and skimp on conservation could be irresistible. By then, however, it would be too late. The Government, having all but surrendered its right of final determination, lacks the call-in powers to protect one of the world's finest railway stations.

The rail link is supposed to be a flagship project for the Private Finance Initiative. What this means for conservation is now all too clear. For the Government to deny itself a final say on major works to so important a building is deeply irresponsible. It is an abnegation of the duties of environmental stewardship advocated in its own recent Green Paper, *Protecting our Heritage*.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM FILMER-SANKEY,
Director,
The Victorian Society,
1 Priory Gardens, Bedford Park, W4.
December 4.

'Unchristian bickering'

From Mrs Masha Woollard

Sir, Whether or not the painting of Jesus in Bethlehem was shedding real tears (report, November 29), I am sure that Christ himself is indeed weeping over the unchristian bickering between the representatives of the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches in Israel.

This unholy rivalry shames them, and distresses other Christians in a world where at last we are seeing the beginnings of unity as opposed to denominationalism.

Yours faithfully,
MASHA WOOLLARD,
15 Haywards Road,
Brighton, East Sussex.
November 29.

School uniforms

From Mr Bryn Giles

Sir, Does the practice of some schools requiring uniforms to be bought from a particular shop, highlighted in your report of November 30, warrant examination by the Office of Fair Trading?

It would seem to me to contain the seeds of some rather squalid little monopolistic situations.

Yours faithfully,
BRYN GILES,
12 Carmarthen Road,
Henleaze, Bristol.
December 1.

Business letters, page 29
Sport letters, page 41

Synod debate on Anglican agenda

From Mr Alan Forward

Sir, Your leading article of November 26, "The Anglican agenda", questions the General Synod's preoccupation with reorganisation at a time when there is enormous public interest in the moral climate of modern Britain.

Contrary to your conclusion, the Church of England must address its internal administration before it can provide moral leadership for the nation. It is the present lack of focus and responsibility which last year enabled one of its many committees to issue the confused report, *Something to Celebrate: Valuing Families in Church and Society*.

That muddle of morality, disowned by the Archbishop of Canterbury (report, June 5, 1995), would not have been published if the proposed Archbishops' Council had been established earlier.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN FORWARD,
The Lindens, Poyntington, Dorset.
November 26.

From Professor Grevel Lindop

Sir, Now that the Church of England is revising its service of baptism "to give a deeper spiritual sense and more poetic feeling" (report, November 30), prospective godfathers may like to reflect on a modern poet's definition of their role.

Invited to stand godfather to a friend's child in 1945, Robert Graves noted: "I find that infant baptism is a heathen rite practised by the ancient Welsh and Irish; adult baptism only was practised by the early Christians". But he accepted willingly, commenting:

> I think the godfather's job in this modern world is always to be the chap to whom the godchild writes if he or she has got into a real jam and needs to be bailed out, or fished out, of a stew; and with whom he/she goes to stay, uninvited, at times of emotional crisis (*In Broken Images: Selected Letters of Robert Graves, 1914-1946*, Hutchinson, 1982).

Not very poetic, nor very orthodox, perhaps; but sound common (and even spiritual) sense.

Yours faithfully,
GREVEL LINDOP,
The University of Manchester,
Department of English
Language and Literature,
Manchester, M13 9PL.
December 1.

From the Provost of Blackburn

Sir, So yet another link between the parish church and the rank-and-file of its parishioners is under scrutiny (letters, November 26, 29). Is anybody asking what our engaged couples think of the possibility of dropping the calling of banns?

It may be that the wording needs to be revised, but surely the need to give welcome and affirmation to those planning a church wedding still remains. In an anonymous world, shy, even non-churchgoing couples coming by invitation to "hear their banns" are, in my experience, given a "lift" in those few moments of the service that are specially for them.

I believe that there are still great pastoral opportunities handed to us on a plate in this area of ministry — even through what may seem old-fashioned preliminaries. As a Church, we should be making more of these opportunities and not less.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID FRAYNE,
The Provost's House,
Preston New Road,
Blackburn, Lancashire.
December 3

From the Reverend Terence Lee

Sir, As the dear old C of E machinates about changing laws and traditions only extant for a few hundred years and therefore fair game, I was reminded of a comment made by a fellow traditionalist about the mayhem caused by the debate about the ordination of women — "all they want to do is prance around in robes dressed up like men".

Yours, in Domino,
TERENCE LEE,
45 Christchurch Road,
Reading, Berkshire.
December 4.

Seat of power

From Mr Stanley Martin

Sir, Commenting on the possibility of Sir Nicholas Scott's Commons seat being passed on to Chris Patten, you say (leading article, December 2) that Hong Kong's tradition of appointed members in its legislature is unlikely to be easily imported. Surely, it does not need to be. We have the House of Lords.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY MARTIN,
14 Great Spilmans,
Dulwich, SE22.
December 3.

Who's to blame?

From Mr P. J. Underwood

Sir, Should not every child sue their parents for bringing them into this uncertain world and thus exposing them to its hazards?

Yours faithfully,
P. J. UNDERWOOD,
18 Edinburgh Close,
Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex.
December 3.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 5: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning arrived at Cross Street, Manchester, and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins) and Councillor Derek Shaw (Lord Mayor of Manchester).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness toured the bomb-damaged area around the Arndale Centre and met representatives of the emergency services and those involved with the rebuilding.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh later drove to Manchester Metropolitan University and were received at the new Faculty of Humanities and Social Science building by the Chancellor (the Duke of Westminster).

Her Majesty, accompanied by His Royal Highness, toured the faculty before opening the new building.

The Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh, later honoured the Chancellor with her presence at Luncheon in the Refectory.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Greater Manchester Police Claytonbrook Complex and were received by the Chairman, Greater Manchester Police Authority (Councillor Stephen Murphy).

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh toured the new buildings, viewed training demonstrations and met members of the Force.

Her Majesty subsequently opened the Claytonbrook Complex.

The Baroness Trumpington (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the Departure of President Mary Robinson and Mr Nicholas Robinson and bade them farewell on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Queen was represented by the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry KT at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Lord Clydesmuir KT which was held in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, today.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine KT.

The Princess Royal was represented by Mrs David Bowes-Lyon.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 5: The Duke of York, Trustee, this morning attended a meeting of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London SE10.

His Royal Highness this evening attended the lighting ceremony for the Norwegian Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square at which The Queen of Norway was present.

The Duke of York afterwards attended a Dinner given by the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen to mark the Centenary of its Royal Charter at Fishmongers' Hall, London EC4.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 5: The Princess Royal, Patron, National Association of Victims Support Schemes, this morning chaired the meeting of the Advisory Board at Church House, Westminster, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Corps of Signals, this afternoon received Major-General Peter Davies upon relinquishing his appointment as Colonel Commandant and Colonel Alastair de Bretton Gordon upon relinquishing his appointment as Regimental Secretary.

The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this evening attended the Festival of Trees Gala Dinner at the Natural History Museum, London SW7.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 5: The Duke of Gloucester today visited Northern Ireland and was received on arrival by the Minister of State for Northern Ireland (the Rt Hon Sir John Wheeler MP).

In the morning His Royal Highness, Patron, Council for Education in World Citizenship, visited Grosvenor Grammar School, Cameronian Drive, Belfast, and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the County Borough of Belfast (Colonel Elliott Wilson).

Afterwards the Duke of Gloucester visited the new headquarters of F G Wilson Engineering Limited, Old Glenarm Road, Larne, and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for County Antrim (the Lord O'Neill).

In the afternoon His Royal Highness opened the Northern Ireland Council on Disability's "Housing with Care Scheme", Ballymacross, Lisburn.

YORK HOUSE
December 5: The Duke of Kent, Grand Master, the United Grand Lodge of England, this evening attended the centenary dinner of the Household Brigade Lodge, at Wellington Barracks, London SW1.

Royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as Patron of Citizens Advice Scotland, will visit Maryhill Citizens Advice Bureau, 1145 Maryhill Road, Glasgow, at 11.20; as Patron of the National Autistic Society, will open the society's office in Scotland, 11 Union Street, at noon; and will open the new haematology-oncology unit, Hawthorn House Yorkhill NHS Trust, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, at 1.20.

University of Ulster

Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters by Ulster University for his work in fostering peace and inter-faith relationships, particularly in the Middle East.

Receptions

Lord Mayor of Westminster
The Queen of Norway and the Duke of York attended a reception given by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster last night at City Hall before the lighting-up ceremony of the Norwegian Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square. The Norwegian Ambassador and the Mayor of Oslo and Mrs Turi Klaveness were also present.

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister and Mrs Major were the hosts at a reception held yesterday evening at 10 Downing Street.

Lincoln's Inn

Mr Patrick Talbot, QC, and Miss Sonia Proudman, QC, have been elected Benchers of Lincoln's Inn.

Today's birthdays

Mrs Janet Anderson, MP, 47; Lord Ashley of Stoke, CH, 74; Mr David Barons, racehorse trainer, 60; the Right Rev Patrick Barry, Abbot of Ampleforth, 79; Mr Dave Brubeck, musician, 76; Vice-Admiral Sir John Cadell, 67; Lord Clinton-Davis, 68; Air Marshal Sir John Curtiss, 72; Lord Emslie, 77; Mr Gerry Francis, football manager, 45; Mr Derek Hill, artist, 80; Mr Geoff Hoon, MP, 43; Mr Jonathan King, broadcaster, 52; Mrs Helen Liddell, MP, 46; Sir Richard Lloyd, chairman, Vickers, 68; Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, Attorney-General, 58; the Right Rev Eric Mercer, former Bishop of Exeter, 79; Sir George Pinker, former Surgeon-Gynaecologist to the Queen, 72; Lord Porter of Luddenham, OM, FRS, 76; Mr Alastair Ross Goobey, chief executive, Hermes Pensions Management, 51; Mr Richard Shepherd, MP, 54; Sir Bryan Thwaites, former chairman, Wessex Regional Health Authority, 73; Mr Charles Vance, director and theatrical producer, 67; the Right Rev Peter Walker, former Bishop of Ely, 77; Mr Peter Willey, cricketer, 47.

ADRIAN BROOKS

Honor Blackman, the actress, meets Natasha, a three-year-old patient at St Thomas' Hospital, London, at the launch yesterday of MediCinema, a new charity whose aim is to improve patient care in hospitals by providing free cinema screenings for patients and their families. It hopes to open the first cinema-style auditorium at St Thomas' next spring

Funeral

Lady Titchener-Barrett
The funeral and service of thanksgiving for the life of Lady Titchener-Barrett was held on Monday, December 2, at St Mary Abbots, Kensington. Prebendary Ian L. Robson, the Vicar and Area Dean of Kensington, officiated. Mr Robert Titchener-Barrett (son) and Mr Greg Mills gave addresses. Mr Alexander Titchener-Barrett and Mr Sebastian Lenain (grandsons) gave readings. Among those present were:

Mrs Georgina Lenain, Mrs Caroline Titchener-Barrett and Miss Jacqueline Titchener-Barrett (daughters), grandchildren, other members of the family and friends from national and local politics and other areas of her life.

Kingston University

Kingston University has conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Science on Sir Richard Doll and an Honorary Doctorate of the University on Lady Greengross, Chief Executive of Age Concern. Mr Paul Jarrett, surgeon at Kingston Hospital, has been appointed visiting professor in day surgery and acute day care. He delivered his inaugural lecture at Kingston University on Wednesday, November 13.

Binney Memorial Medal

The Lord Mayor presented the Mr Aaron Otuo-Acheampong with the Binney Memorial Medal for bravery in support of law and order in the Metropolis at a ceremony held yesterday at Goldsmiths' Hall. The Lord Mayor, who was accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, also presented other bravery awards.

Salters' Company

Professor Sir Robert May, FRS, Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government, presented the Salters' Company Prize for the Teaching of Chemistry to Mr Glynn James of Christ's Hospital at a luncheon at Salters' Hall yesterday. Mr A. Dawson Paul, Master, presided. Sir Robert also presented prizes to graduates in chemistry and chemical engineering, to students who had achieved the best results in the Salters' A-level Advanced Chemistry Examinations and to winners of the Salters' City and Guild Prizes.

Appointment

Mr Ian Hay Davison has been appointed Pro-Provost and Chairman of the Council at the Royal College of Art.

Memorial service

Colonel Lord Clydesmuir, KT
The Queen was represented by the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, KT, and the Duke of Edinburgh by the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, KT, at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Colonel Lord Clydesmuir, KT, held yesterday in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh. The Princess Royal was represented by Mrs David Bowes-Lyon.

The Very Rev Gilleasbuig Macmillan, Minister of St Giles' and Dean of the Thistle, and the Very Rev Dr William Morris, KCVO, Minister of Glasgow Cathedral, officiated.

Lord Clydesmuir and the Hon Andrew Colville (sons) and Captain North Dalrymple-Hamilton of Bargany, RN, gave readings. Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple gave an address.

An escort party of The Queen's Body Guard for Scotland (Royal Company of Archers) under Command of Brigadier, Major the Hon Sir Lachlan Maclean was in attendance. Among those present were:

Joan Lady Clydesmuir (widow), Mr and the Hon Mrs Christopher Munro (son-in-law and daughter), Lady Clydesmuir and the Hon Mrs Andrew Colville (daughters-in-law), the Hon Rachel, the Hon Harriet, Emily and Patrick Colville and Mr Andrew Munro and Miss Fiona Munro (grandchildren), Mr and the Hon Mrs Philip Whitcombe (brother-in-law and sister), Sir Michael and Lady McCorkell (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mrs Susie Marriot, Mr and Mrs John McCorkell, Mr and Mrs David McCorkell, Mr and Mrs Barry McCorkell, Mrs North Dalrymple-Hamilton, Colonel and Mrs John Dalrymple-Hamilton, Mr and Mrs Jamie Dalrymple-Hamilton, Mrs Graeme Laing, Mr and Mrs John Furness, Mrs Rosemary Cadell, Mr Guy Newton, Mr and Mrs Fergus Lysaght, Lady Erskine-Hill, Mr and Mrs John North-Lewis and many other friends.

Requiem Mass

Comte Jacques Frédéric Pillet-Will
A Requiem Mass for Comte Jacques Frédéric Pillet-Will was concelebrated by the Rev Sir Hugh Barrett-Lennard and Mgr V. J. F. Morgan, who also read the lesson and gave an address, at the Little Oratory, Brompton Oratory, yesterday. Among others present were:

La Comtesse Pillet-Will (widow), La Comtesse Patrick de Gourcuff (daughter), Mrs Francis Mathew (mother-in-law), Mr and Mrs Thomas Mathew, Mr and Mrs Paul Betts and Mr and Mrs Julian Williams (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law), Mr Charles J Mathew, Mr Francis A Mathew and Mr Robert M Mathew (brothers-in-law), the Countess of Norbury, Miss Veronica Mathew and Miss Sarah H Mathew (sisters-in-law), Mme Axelle Coste Russe, Mr Theobald D Mathew, Mrs Robin Mathew, Professor and Mrs John Dillon, Miss Ruth Dillon, the Earl and Countess of Bessborough, Viscount Duncannon, Lady Sarah Ponsonby, the Hon Matthew and Mrs Ponsonby, the Hon Charles and Mrs Ponsonby, Mr Laurence Grand, Mr Francis Grand, Mr Charles Mathew, and other members of the family.

Mr Kenneth Baker, CH, MP, and Mrs Baker, Sir Michael Maxwell, Sir John Fretwell, Comtesse Adele de Tertre, Prince Rostislov Romanoff, Mr and Mrs Ian Hamilton, Mr and Mrs Edwin Russell, Miss Tania Russell, Miss Rebecca Russell, Mr Lucas Ralli, Mr and Mrs David Marlow, Mr Basil Sellers, Mr Paul Sellers, Mrs John Cousins, Mr Jon Foulds, Mr Thomas Ponsonby, Mr John Butterwick.

Mr Khodadad Farmanfarmian, Mrs Margaret Critchley, Mrs John Goellet, Mr John Douglas Cooper, Mr and Mrs John Yorke, Miss Juliet Walker, Mr Nicholas Armstrong, Mr and Mrs T C Lowndes-Jones, Mr Arthur Keene, Mr Greg Melgaard, Mr David Fitzsimons, Mr and Mrs Pip Marsh, Mr Matthew Macknsick, Mr and Mrs Robert Forrester, Mrs Beryl Pendley, Mrs Lyn Napper, Ms Jyl Marsh.

Mr Richard Pollock, Mrs Mary Foulkes, Mr Harold Brookie Brooks-Baker, Miss Natasha Brookie Brooks-Baker, Mr John Whitbeck, Mrs Jennifer Scott, Mr Robin Scott, Miss Sarah Scott, Mrs W de Konig, Mr and Mrs Bill Payne, Mr Anthony Palmer, Mr David Coe, Mrs Nicola Goddard and Professor Alfred Marnau and other friends.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: King Henry VI, reigned 1422-61 and 1470-71, Windsor, 1421; Elizabeth Carter, poet, Deal, 1717; Warren Hastings, 1st Governor-General of India, Churchill, Oxfordshire, 1732; Richard H. Barham, author of *The Ingoldsby Legends*, Canterbury, 1788; Sir Osbert Sitwell, writer, London, 1892; Ira Gershwin, composer, New York, 1896.

DEATHS: Jean Baptiste Chardin, painter, Paris, 1779; Joseph Black, chemist, Edinburgh, 1799; Anthony Trollope, novelist, London, 1882; Jean Blanc, socialist and historian, Cannes, 1882; Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States in the American Civil War 1861-65, New Orleans, 1889; Ernst Werner von Siemens, engineer, Berlin, 1892.

Today is the feast day of St Nicholas, patron saint of youth, popularly known as Santa Claus.

Christopher Columbus discovered Hispaniola, now Haiti and the Dominican Republic, 1492.

The Irish Free State was proclaimed, 1921.

Legal appointment

Mr Harman John Leslie to be a Queen's Bench Master of the Supreme Court, Queen's Bench Division, from November 27.

Latest wills

Mabel Gray **Consterdine**, of Deganwy, Gwynedd, left estate valued at £3,940,320 net.

She left £3,000 each to London City Mission and Manchester City Mission; £500 each to the RSPB, World Wildlife Fund - UK, Wildfowl Trust, PDSA, SASRA, Tear Fund, RSPCA; £6,000 to the Independent Evangelical Church, Llandudno. Residuary estate divided between Overseas Missionary Fellowship, Chinese Overseas Christian Mission, Far East Broadcasting Company, Bible Society, Gospel Recordings, Scripture Gift Mission, Churches Ministry Among the Jews, and Scripture Union.

Frederick Richard George **Bell**, of London SW3, left estate valued at £2,222,772 net.

He left £2,500 to both St Luke's Church, Sydney Street, Chelsea and the special trustees of Westminster Hospital, London; plus shares in residuary estate to National Trust, RSPB, National Art Collections Fund and Honourable Artillery Company Benevolent Fund.

Lilian Gladys **Gordon**, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, left estate valued at £2,407,507 net.

Eileen Alice **Kellock**, of Newton Abbot, Devon, left estate valued at £1,984,899 net.

Rosemary Phyllis **Haynes**, of Cheam, Surrey, left estate valued at £2,588,272 net.

She left £10,000 each to the National Trust, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Benevolent Fund for the Society of Chiropodists, RNLI, Age Concern England, Salvation Army, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research, British Red Cross, RNID, Mental Health Foundation and Animals Health Trust.

Howard Robert **Jackson**, of Lisvane, Cardiff, left estate valued at £1,352,840 net.

Edward Howsley **Watson**, of Canterbury, Kent, left estate valued at £1,315,028 net.

Arthur **Lambert**, of Lytham St Annes, Lancashire, left estate valued at £1,046,189 net.

He left an option to purchase all his shares in James Lambert (Radio) Ltd to his employees in the firm of the time of his death.

Roger George **Bacciochi**, of Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, left estate valued at £1,119,754 net.

John Upton **Lewin**, of Brentford, Middlesex, left estate valued at £1,727,459 net.

He left residuary estate to be equally divided between Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and British Empire Cancer Campaign.

Cyril Thomas **Savage**, of St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex, left estate valued at £1,518,888 net.

Colin Alfred **Matthes**, of Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, left estate valued at £1,478,611 net.

Thomas Lloyd **Robinson**, of Stoke Bishop, Bristol, left estate valued at £1,041,072 net.

He left £10,000 to the Merchants Venturers Charity of the Society of Merchant Venturers, and to Wycliffe College Education Trust, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire; £5,000 each to the Grateful Society, Bristol, St Mary Magdalene Church of Stoke Bishop, Gloucestershire Society, and The Canynges Society, Bristol.

Service dinners

HAC Mess Club
Colonel G.E. Gilchrist, President of the Honourable Artillery Company Mess Club, was in the chair at a dinner held last night at Armoury House. Mr Roger Young, General Sir Brian Kenny, Governor, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and Colonel Sir Robin Dunn also spoke.

Empire Test Pilots' School
The Empire Test Pilots' School held its Graduation Dinner last night in the Officers' Mess at RAF Boscombe Down in the presence of the High Commissioner for South Africa. Wing Commander S.L. Hilditch, Officer Commanding, presided. Lieutenant General B.A.C. Droste, Commander in Chief, The Royal Netherlands Air Force, was the Guest of Honour. 15 students graduated.

The McKenna Trophy for the Best Fixed Wing Pilot Student was awarded to Captain H.P. Kissmann, Canadian Forces.

The Westland Trophy for the Best Rotary Wing Pilot Student was awarded to Captain M. Pozzoli, Italian Air Force.

The Dunlop Trophy for the Best Flight Test Engineer Student was awarded to Major B.O. Hultgren, Royal Swedish Air Force.

Dinner

Company of Makers of Playing Cards
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended the installation dinner of the Company of Makers of Playing Cards held last night at the Mansion House. Mr M.H. Goodall, Master, presided. The Lord Mayor, Mr R.E. Thompson and Mr P.D. Crabbe, Senior Warden, also spoke. The Deputy High Commissioner for Australia, the Master and Mistress Cutler in Hallamshire and the Masters of the Feltmakers', Painter-Stainers', Glass Sellers' and Tobacco Pipe Makers' and Tobacco Blenders' Companies and their ladies were among those present.

Paviors' Company
Mr John Luff, Master of the Paviors' Company, presided at a livery dinner held last night at Vintners' Hall.

During the evening the Master presented the company's 1996 prize to Mr William Ricks for his academic success and contribution to the Readership sponsored by the company in the Department of Construction Management and Engineering at Reading University.

Forthcoming marriages

Lord Templeman and Mrs S.B. Edworthy
The marriage of Lord Templeman and Mrs Sheila Edworthy, widow of Dr John Edworthy, will take place on December 12 at Exeter.

Dr M.I.D. Cawley and Miss A.L. Chapman
The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of the late Mr W.M.S. Cawley, CBE, and of Mrs E.M. Cawley, formerly of Little Common, Sussex, and Alison, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.H. Chapman, of Eastbourne.

Mr A.St.J. Garnon and Miss J.R. Seaward
The engagement is announced between Adrian, son of Mrs Grace Garnon, of Widdrington, Northumberland, and the late Mr Brian Garnon, and Janie, youngest daughter of Mr Alan Seaward, of Comrie, Perthshire, and Mrs David Nolan, of Baltonsborough, Somerset.

Mr J.C. Macdonald and Miss C.C. Dalton Holmes
The engagement is announced between Jamie, son of Mr and Mrs Euan Macdonald, of London and Bombay, and Camilla, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Dalton Holmes, of Benenden, Kent.

Mr D.H.R. Moross and Miss J.R. Lemmon
The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of Mr and Mrs M.D. Moross, of Knightsbridge, London, and Jennifer, daughter of Mrs Judith S. Lemmon, of Austin, Texas, and Mr H. Glyen Lemmon, of Denver, Colorado.

Mr M.S.H. Smith and Miss S.J. Martland
The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Hamilton Smith, of Rainhill, Merseyside, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Martland, of Sudbury, Suffolk and Zambia.

Mr K.B. Ward Lilley and Mrs C.S. Pimlott
The engagement is announced between Brian Ward Lilley, of Wapping, and Carin Pimlott, of Wimbledon. The marriage will take place quietly in the New Year.

Marriage

Mr L.V.S. Lane and Miss J.A. Dunkerley
The marriage took place yesterday very quietly in Richmond upon Thames, of Mr Vincent Lane, younger son of the late Mr Brian Lane and of the late Mrs Evelyn Lane, née Long, to Miss Jennifer Dunkerley, youngest daughter of the late Mr Gerald Dunkerley and of Mrs Dunkerley.

Institute of Actuaries

The following candidates have completed the examinations requirements for the qualification of Fellowship of the Institute of Actuaries.

Arora, N K (London)

Bacon, Miss K E (Sydney); Barnard, M W (London); Berelowitz, R B (Cape Town); Birchall, Miss L M (Manchester); Blake, S E (London); Bratton, R P (London); Britch, Mrs L (Manchester); Brogden, A J (London); Brown, C A (London); Byrne, C J (Dublin)

Callan, G L (Cheltenham); Christie, D L (London)

Davey, K W (Croydon); De Haan, R D (London); den Dekker, T O (London); Dodhia, N (London); Draper, I M (London)

Fisher, S (London); Forrest, C M (Lytham St Annes); Frum, N (Tel Aviv); Furber, L R (Croydon)

Gibney, P J A (Oxford); Greenland, P (Birmingham); Griggs, D (Peterborough)

Harris, T J (Croydon); Hennessy, R A (Liverpool); Heron, S P (Liverpool); Hobbs, D A (Bristol); Holland, P (Manchester); Hope, T E (Johannesburg); Hue, Miss B L (Cape Town); Hunt, J P (London)

Jewson, C P (London); Jowett, T G L (Croydon)

Karodia, Miss N (Oxford); Kite, Miss J C (Croydon); Knowles, G G (Croydon); Kostiw, P (London)

Laws, S (Birmingham); Lee, G R (Auckland); Lewis, Mrs J L (London); Lewry, M K (Tunbridge Wells); Lightwood, D S (Birmingham)

McCrossan, J D (Peterborough); McIlveen, Miss R V (London); Malcolm, Mrs H (London); May, J L (Glasgow); Mitchell, Miss N S (Norwich); Mody, R (London); Murphy, M A (Croydon); Murphy, Miss M E (Dublin)

Naughton, C M S (Dublin)

O'Flaherty, D T (Dublin); Orton, T R (Liverpool)

Pearson, Ms J A (Bristol); Poon, K-C S (Peterborough)

Raddall, P A (Horsham); Rebuck, M I (London); Richardson, D L (London); Roberts, P J (Oxford)

Sander, M A (Leeds); Senator, I (London); Shah, R H (Croydon); Shah, V J (London); Sherry, Miss M A (Dublin); Sivakumaran, P (Melbourne); Skinner, Ms J E (Hertford); Smith, Miss J (London); Solari, K F M (Croydon); Sutcliffe, S D (Leeds); Sweeney, G J (Dublin)

Turnbull, A J (Edinburgh); Turner, A P (Dublin); Vassiliades, R R (Peterborough); Vulkan, D P (London)

Wakerly, R G (Norwich); Willder, M (Norwich); Wilson, D C E (London); Wren-Kirkham, C J (Lytham ST Annes); Wrenn, S A (London); Wright, G P (Birmingham); Young, M P (Hertford)

This list appeared in some editions of *The Times* yesterday.

Election

Mr Dennis Stevenson, Chairman of the Trustees of the Tate Gallery, has been elected to the Board of the British Council.

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Do not plead that you are too young; for you are to go to whatever people I send you, and say whatever I tell you to say. Jeremiah 1 : 7

BIRTHS

DELANEY - On 14th August 1996 in Guildford Royal Surrey Hospital, to Amanda and John, a daughter, Katy Isobelle, a sister for Luciana.

LONSDALE - On 30th November, to Hugh and Catriona, a daughter, Jemima Loveday, a sister for Sophie and Thomas.

MARTIN - On 7th November 1996, to Kerry-Jane and Stephen, a son, Guy Henry, a brother to Venetia.

POWELL - On 1st December 1996, at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, to Nicky (née Mason) and William, a son, Alexander Hugo.

PULLAN - On 4th December, to Fiona (née Wilson) and David, a delightful son, Toby Michael Cochrane, a brother for Ben.

ROSE - On 28th November 1996, to Jane (née Cheetham) and Jim, a son, Adam William Denyer. Thanks to the staff at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester.

SIMISTER - On December 1st, to Sarah (née Wilkins) and Stephen, a precious daughter, Sophie Louise.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

ELSLEY:JOSEPHY - On 6th December 1946 at Salisbury Registry Office, Ralph to Marianne. With love and congratulations from the children.

DEATHS

BEAGLEY - On 30th November 1996 in hospital at Eastbourne, Margaret Balliol (née Scott). Funeral Service at Eastbourne Crematorium Family Chapel on Wednesday 11th December at 12.45 pm. Flowers or donations for Royal British Legion (Womens Section) may be sent to Haine & Son Ltd., 19 South Street, Eastbourne.

BUTTERWORTH - On 3rd December 1996, suddenly at home at Ollerton, Lady Butterworth, aged 82 years, the dear wife of the late Sir Neville Butterworth, much loved mother and mother-in-law of David, Michael and Beverly and beloved grandmother of Zara and Kali. Enquiries to Dodgson's Funeral Service, 25 Manchester Road, Knutsford, tel: (01565) 634251.

CARRINGTON - Mary on December 2nd 1996, aged 63. Formerly Royds, widow of Thomas Daniel Mullins and of James Carrington. Cremation, 2 pm on Thursday 12th December at Worthing Crematorium. Family flowers only but donations to St Barnabas Hospice, Worthing gratefully received c/o H.D. Tribe Ltd., 130 Broadwater Road, Worthing, W. Sx. Tel: (01903) 234616.

CASSAGLI - On December 1st Alexis Theodore, devoted husband, beloved father and honoured friend. Peacefully at sleep. Family cremation took place December 5th.

DAVIS - On 4th December peacefully at Stratton Hospital, Bude, Leslie Stanley of Bude, Cornwall, formerly of Maidenhead. Beloved husband of Veronica, greatly loved father of Carol and grandchildren Tania and Justin and great-granddaughter Jade, loved dearly by his stepdaughters and step grandchildren. Funeral Service at St Marwennes Church, Marhamchurch, Bude, on Tuesday December 10th at 2.30pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired for The British Heart Foundation c/o Funeral Directors Arthur W. Bryant, Bude, Cornwall, EX23 8SS.

HAMERSLEY - Margaret, on December 1st 1996. Cremation private. A service of thanksgiving will be held at St Andrew's Church, Old Headington on Thursday January 16th 1997 at 12 noon. Donations if desired to the Abbeyfield Society, Cumnor House, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9RL or the Alzheimers Home, Vale House, Botley, Oxford, OX2 9UD. Contributions may be sent to Reeves & Pain, 19 Fairfax Centre, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 2PR.

KIDD - (Futts) December 3rd 1996 peacefully at St Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire. Widow of E.L. Kidd. Family flowers only.

LOVELL - Professor Kenneth aged 81 years of Exeter passed away on 4th December 1996, beloved husband of Annie and father of the late Kenneth Manville. Funeral Service at St Leonards Church, Exeter on Wednesday 11th December at 10 am, followed by interment at Topsham Cemetery.

MULLINS - See Carrington.

NIELD - The Honourable Sir Basil Nield CBE on December 4th peacefully at Osborne aged 93. Much loved uncle and great-uncle and greatly missed by his friends at Osborne. Funeral Service at Osborne House on Monday December 16th at 2.15 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Friends of Osborne House c/o F.L. Lloyd F/D, Bridge Road, Cowes.

NORWOOD - On 3rd December at Low Furlong, Shipston on Stour, Gordon Alan Gess Norwood, Printer and Publisher (Roundwood Press), much loved Father of Victoria, Rachel and Charles and loving Grandfather to Alexander, Sophie, Lucy and James. Funeral at St Peter ad Vincula, Ratley, Banbury, Oxon. on Friday 13th December at 2.30 pm. Flowers to Wisdom and Adams, Southam Street, Kineton, Warwickshire CV35 0JN (01926) 640386.

O'HALLORAN - Michael aged 65 of Verney Junction, Buckingham, died suddenly but peacefully at home on December 3rd. Much loved and respected husband of Elspeth and father to Gwen, Theresa, Joanna, Kirsten and Benedict. Cremation at Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, on December 12th at 12 noon. No flowers but donations in lieu please to cancer charities of your choice. Enquiries to Heritage & Sons F/D, tel: (01296) 713341.

RENNIE - At Drumchapel Hospital, Glasgow, on Wednesday November 27th 1996, J. Basil Rennie MD, FRCP, beloved husband of Beryl, father of Elizabeth, Katherine and Frances and grandfather of Gordon and Patrick. The funeral took place on December 2nd.

PLUMMER - Mary Coyle Plummer (née Barley), widow of R.R.J. Plummer and mother of Elizabeth, Giles and Bridget, died at her home in Ringmer, Sussex, on 1st December 1996, aged 85 years. A memorial service will be held at Westgate Chapel, Lewes, at 2.30 pm on Thursday 12th December. Donations in her memory, for the National Autistic Society or for the RNLI, may be sent to Cooper & Son Funeral Service, 42 High Street, Lewes BN7 2DD (01273 475557).

ROWLANDS - Herbert Roy died peacefully on 3rd December 1996. All enquiries concerning funeral arrangements to Wragge & Co. (Ref LSW/BAC), 55 Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2AS. Tel: (0121) 233-1000.

ROYDS - See Carrington.

SLATER - William Rex, peacefully on December 4th 1996, beloved husband of the late Liz, loving father of Tim, Judy and Jenny and grandfather of Talia, Tristan and Myles. Funeral Service at 2.30 pm All Saints Church, Piddletrenthide, on Wednesday December 11th. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Joseph Weld Hospice, Dorchester.

SONDES - The Rt. Hon. Henry George Herbert, 5th Earl Sondes. On 2nd December, aged 56, beloved husband of Phyllis. After a long battle with cancer. His courage has been a wonderful example to us all. The Funeral Service will take place at 2.30 pm on Monday, 9th December at St James's Church, Sheldwich, nr. Faversham, Kent. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund London Events. All enquiries and donations to Strutt & Parker, 2 St Margarets Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2TP Tel: 01227 451123. A Memorial Service will be held in the New Year. The date and venue will be announced in the near future.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

GRANVILLE - A Memorial Service for Granville James Leveson Gower, 5th Earl Granville, will be held at The Queens' Chapel, St James' Palace, on Thursday, 12th December at 11.30 am.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

HIRSCHFIELD - Lord Desmond Barel. My dear husband, the wonderful memories I cherish, the wonderful paintings that adorn our home. Our life together I cherish with love forever, your wife Lady Ronnie.

TOMPKINS - Richard CBE In loving memory of my darling husband who passed away 4 years ago today. So many cherished memories, forever in my heart. Liz.

TOMPKINS - Richard CBE Daddy, you are forever in my thoughts and I miss you everyday, but I know you are always sitting on my shoulder. Vicky.

SERVICES

PLUMP PARTNERS National Dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner ring 01382 715909.

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OBITUARIES

JOHN VASSALL

John Vassall, Soviet spy, died last month aged 76. He was born on September 24, 1920.

As a junior employee of the British Embassy in Moscow in the mid-1950s, John Vassall must have seemed an easy target to the KGB. He was no ideological zealot; nor was he one of those insouciant high-flyers who betray their country seemingly for the hell of it. But he was naive, insecure and socially ambitious, while his homosexuality made him vulnerable to blackmail and his vanity was all too susceptible to greed.

There followed a classic entrapment, as threats and compromising photographs gave way to flattery and financial inducements, and the intelligence demanded grew ever more serious and secret. From 1954 until his arrest in 1962, Vassall supplied his Soviet controllers with an unceasing flow of documents and information, first from the Moscow Embassy, then from the Admiralty in London.

Vassall was never more than a low-level functionary, but there was nothing low-level about the damage he was able to inflict. His treachery was undoubtedly serious, for at various times in his career he had access to vital information; but the questions it raised were more serious still. If the KGB had spotted Vassall as an obvious recruit, why had the British not spotted him sooner?

Vassall's trial ended for him with a sentence of 18 years' imprisonment. But the trial in which the British Establishment found itself caught up was to go on rather longer. By the time it ended, one junior minister had resigned, doubts had been raised about the efficiency of Britain's intelligence apparatus, relations between Government and the press had been irrevocably changed. Moreover, the atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust engendered by the Vassall case almost certainly contributed to Harold Macmillan's mishandling of the Profumo affair, which was the prologue to his fall from office in October 1963.

William John Vassall (he hated his first name and preferred to use his second) was born in St Bartholomew's Hospital, to which his father, later to be part-time curate at St James's, Piccadilly, was then attached as chaplain. His mother was a nurse.

He was sent to a boarding school at Seaford in Sussex, then at the age of 13 to Monmouth School. A mediocre scholar with no enthusiasm for games, he had a reputation as the best-dressed boy in the school, but also acquired the nickname "Serf", for his servility towards his elders and eagerness to please.

At 17 he tried to volunteer for flying duties with the RAF but was rejected. After jobs in a City branch of the Midland Bank and as a temporary clerk in the Admiralty, he was finally called up in 1943 and trained as an RAF photographer, in which capacity he served with 137 Wing in Western Europe. The benefits of this training, he later admitted, could be seen in the work he did with the Minox camera that he was given by the KGB.

Vassall joined the Admiralty as a clerk in 1948, and in 1952 went to Moscow on the staff of the British Naval Attaché. On the business cards he used there he described himself, rather grandly, as "junior attaché", and it seems he was unhappy with the protocol and snobberies of Embassy life.

Seeking friends outside, he made the acquaintance of a Pole named Mikhailsky who introduced him to the secret world of homosexual Moscow. It was in 1954, at a party in a private room of a restaurant near the Bolshoi theatre, that he was photographed in a variety of compromising positions.

Shown the photographs at a meeting with two KGB officers, he was asked initially to supply information of a fairly general kind. Gradually the demands became more specific, and at Christmas 1955 he received his first payment, of 2,000 roubles (then about £50).

Vassall later insisted that at this time he did not regard his actions as espionage. Though worried about what he was getting into, he claimed that he felt unable to confide in the Ambassador, Sir William Hayter, whom he regarded as cold, aloof and forbidding. Hayter was to say that, had he been consulted, he would have arranged to have Vassall sent home, as had been done in "one or two other cases". The admission that such things had happened before, and the question of how soon Vassall had in fact been suspected within the Embassy, contributed to the controversy surrounding the subsequent trial.

Vassall seems genuinely to have thought that his troubles would end with his return to London. They did not, and, back in the Admiralty where Lord Carrington was First Lord, he found himself being run, from a flat in Pelham Court, South Kensington, by the now notorious Russian spymaster Nikolai Borisovich Rodin, a counsellor at the Soviet Embassy who had also controlled George Blake and the members of the Portland spy ring.

That Vassall should have escaped suspicion in Moscow seems remarkable; that he should have continued to escape it in London is almost beyond belief. As a junior clerk in the Admiralty earning £750 a year, he was living in a £400-a-year flat in Hood House, Dolphin Square, wearing Savile Row suits and taking frequent foreign holidays. His Russian paymasters were by now paying him between £500 and £700 a year.

Eventually the obvious gap between his modest income and his lavish expenditure did bring him to official attention, and a raid on his flat revealed, hidden in a secret compartment in a wardrobe, ten films with 140 pictures of some 17 Admiralty documents. This formed the conclusive evidence at his trial.

The security questions raised by his conviction were far-reaching, and George Brown, deputy leader of the Opposition, used them to goad and harry Macmillan's Government. A tribunal under Lord Radcliffe was finally set up to investigate them. Macmillan hoped that its findings would help to dispel the atmosphere of bitterness and suspicion created by the case. "I feel" he said, "that the time has come for men of propriety and decency not to tolerate the growth of what I can only call the spirit of Titus Oates or Senator McCarthy."

Radcliffe seemed keen to put the press itself on trial over the Vassall case — literally so, in the case of two journalists jailed for refusing to reveal the sources of stories that Vassall had been suspected sooner than was officially admitted.

The tribunal found some inadequacies in the vetting procedure, but no evidence of culpability. Apart from Reginald Foster of the *Daily Sketch* and Brendan Mulholland of the *Daily Mail*, the principal casualty of the affair turned out to be Thomas Galbraith, MP for Glasgow Hillhead and Civil Lord of the Admiralty during Vassall's time there.

In response to gossip about the relationship between Galbraith and Vassall, the Macmillan Government took the extraordinary step of publishing an exchange of letters between the two men. It suggested considerably greater familiarity than might then have been expected between a junior minister and a very junior clerk, but it seemed wholly innocent. Vassall was always to deny impropriety; Radcliffe cleared Galbraith of any complicity; but the MP nonetheless had felt compelled to resign from the post he had subsequently taken up in the Scottish Office.

Released after ten years as a model prisoner, Vassall was to exert a further bizarre influence on British politics when allegations about his 1960s' association with Sir Fergus Montgomery were passed to the Prime Minister's office by a former MP, Humphry Berkeley, allegedly helping to bring about Montgomery's resignation as parliamentary private secretary to Margaret Thatcher. At his trial, in later interviews, and in his memoirs, published in 1974, Vassall made much of the idea of homosexuals in high places.

In general, however, after his release in 1972 he sought and found obscurity. A Roman Catholic convert, befriended in prison by Lord Longford, he spent some time in a monastery, then worked in an antique shop, and took various posts as an archivist and clerk. He changed his name to John Phillips.

His death from a heart attack went unreported for a fortnight. His body was cremated after a private funeral on Tuesday at the Brompton Oratory.

BABRAK KARMAL

Babrak Karmal, Prime Minister and then President of Afghanistan from 1979 to 1986, died in Moscow of liver cancer on December 1 aged 67. He was born in 1929.

IN A seven-year stewardship of his war-torn country, cocooned by the armed might of the Soviet Union, Babrak Karmal found himself increasingly at sea in a maelstrom of intractable problems. But this was a position he shared with his Russian paymasters who, in spite of pouring in massive military aid for his regime, were, in the end, to take what was perhaps their first significant backward step, in geopolitical terms, since the end of the Second World War.

Karmal had come to power on Christmas Day, 1979, on the points of 5,000 Russian bayonets. By the time Moscow had despaired of its by now alcoholic puppet in 1986 and had him removed, the number of its troops in Afghanistan had risen to 120,000 and the Red Army, itself facing problems of drink and drug abuse in its ranks, was becoming haunted by the unfamiliar spectre of military defeat.

The principal opposition to Karmal's Soviet-backed regime came from Islamic rebels, armed by the US, who saw the situation in Afghanistan as a highly-promising way of waging the Cold War. But as Karmal and his successors, whether Moscow-backed or of Islamic fundamentalist persuasion, were to find, the Afghan problem was never merely a two-sided one. From their lair in the Panjshir Valley the independently-minded General Masood and his fighters presented a separate threat to Karmal, much as they do to the government of Taleban fundamentalists a decade later.

A Persian-speaker, Babrak Karmal was the son of an army general and provincial governor. He grew up in Kabul, where he went to a German-language secondary school. He subsequently entered Kabul university to study law and political science, but his studies were interrupted for five years when he was imprisoned for Marxist agitation.

When he eventually obtained his degree he served for a year in the army and then worked for eight years in the Ministry of Planning until, in 1965, he helped to unite the communist movement of several factions into a single party, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA). Also in that year, he was elected to the lower house of parliament, where he acquired a reputation for his oratory and a hot temper.

Two years later, Karmal broke away from the largely pro-Chinese PDPA to found his own party, the Parcham (flag), named after the ideological news-sheet he edited. The new grouping was pro-Soviet, but a gradualist rather than a revolutionary party.

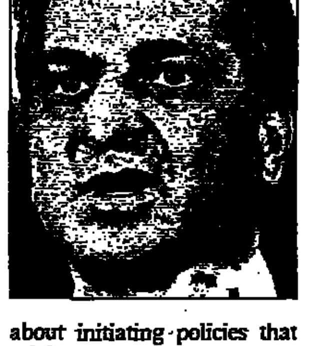
Karmal remained a member of parliament until 1973. During this time the New Democracy regime of Shah Mohammed Zahir was increasingly undermined by inefficiency, corruption, a lack of foreign aid and a drought which killed some 100,000 people and decimated livestock. The streets of Kabul were the daily battleground of zealots of the various creeds.

When the king's cousin and former prime minister, Prince Daoud Khan, who had once appointed Karmal's father to the governorships of Herat and Pakhtia, overthrew the monarchy in July 1973, Karmal's followers in the armed forces readily joined hands with him and Parchamites were given Cabinet posts. But Daoud refused to share meaningful power with his partners and did not carry out many of the reforms he had promised. Within two years he had closed all the independent newspapers in the land. Later on, still, he dismissed parliament and banned all political parties.

In 1977, the two major wings of the former PDPA, the Khalq (masses) under Nur-Mohammad Taraki and Hafizullah Amin, and the Parcham under Karmal, reconstituted it into a single party once more and stepped up their clandestine efforts to recruit within the officer corps of the armed forces. In April 1978 large demonstrations against the assassination of Karmal's chief ideologist forced Daoud to arrest the three communist leaders. But it was already too late. Some 300 junior officers overthrew and murdered the president.

In the new Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, Taraki became both president and prime minister, while Amin and Karmal became his deputies in both posts. But the old rivalries soon resurfaced. In July 1978, Karmal and his long-time mistress, Dr Anahita Ratebzad, were sent as ambassadors to Czechoslovakia and Hungary. A few months later they were ordered to return to Kabul, but instead, they raided the safe-boxes of their embassies and threw themselves on the mercy of the Soviet Union.

In 1979 Amin murdered Taraki, declared himself president and showed signs of loosening his links with Moscow. In December 5,000 Soviet troops were air-lifted into Kabul, where they overthrew and killed Amin and replaced him with Karmal. What was effectively an invasion of a non-aligned country by a superpower was widely condemned, and Karmal set about initiating policies that might endear the government to the mass of the population, thousands of whom had fled into exile in Pakistan and Iran. He tried to give an impression of increasing emancipation from the Soviet Union, persuading non-party personalities to join his administration. But this was contradicated by a massive build-up of Soviet troops. Western, Iranian and Arab aid to Muslim guerrillas gained momentum and the Afghan army suffered from widespread desertion. Afghanistan became a battleground. By the summer of 1980 at least 80 per cent of the country was in the grip of the guerrillas.



On the positive side, the Karmal government could point to the beginning of the emancipation of women among its achievements, a process continued under his successor Muhammad Najibullah but abruptly reversed by Afghanistan's new masters. But the Soviet leadership was becoming embarrassed by Karmal's slide into alcoholism. In May 1986 Najibullah succeeded him as general secretary of the PDPA and in November relieved him of all his political posts. Sent to the Soviet Union, Karmal spent the rest of his life in a dacha on the Black Sea until illness compelled his admittance to a Moscow hospital. Najibullah was himself overthrown by Islamic rebels in 1992 after the Soviet Union had withdrawn all military and economic aid. He was executed by Taleban fundamentalists last September.

Karmal and Dr Ratebzad never married and had no children.

EDWARD KASSNER

Edward Kassner, music publisher, died on November 19 aged 76. He was born on February 28, 1920.

WHEN BBC Radio broadcast *The Edward Kassner Story* in July 1991, it was paying tribute to one of the last great music publishers and a man widely recognised in the popular music industry around the world. But for Edward Kassner, music was more than just a business; it was the lucky talisman that never deserted him throughout a long and successful career.

Born in Vienna, of Jewish parentage, Kassner nurtured aspirations towards writing operas at an early age. But any plans in this direction he may have had were cut short by Hitler's annexation of Austria in March 1938. At 17 he escaped across Germany to The Netherlands, Belgium and eventually England, surviving by a combination of his wits and his music.

Kassner had hardly been a year in England before — like many other anti-Nazi German, Austrian and Italian refugees of the time — he found himself rounded up and interned in May 1940. He was shipped off to Australia in the *SS Dunera*. Later, when he was allowed to return, he joined the British Army, serving in France and Germany from 1941 to 1945 as an interpreter attached to a Canadian tank corps.

By 1944 he had married an Englishwoman and started his company, the Edward Kassner Music Co. One night in France during heavy bombardment by the Germans, Kassner wrote what would in 1946 become his first big hit. Sung by Vera Lynn, it was entitled *How Lucky You Are*.

In the early 1950s, Eddie Kassner amassed a string of hit songs with recordings by Frank Sinatra, Perry Como, Nat King Cole, Vera Lynn, Anne Shelton and many others. In 1951 he opened an office in New York. His ability to pick a winning song and promote it established his reputation in the postwar era.

Ambitions for a Kassner worldwide empire began to grow with the acquisition of various copyrights and catalogues that included Cecil Lennox, Harry Roy's J. Norris Music, Yale Music and, by the end of the decade, Albert Von Tilzer's Broadway Music Corp. The latter held American standards such as *You Made Me Love You*, *I'll Be With You In Apple Blossom Time* and *Take Me Out To The Ball Game*.

Kassner's great coup, however, was a song that changed the face of popular music, *Rock Around The Clock*. He paid $250 for something that many of his contemporaries had turned down. Yet, within 18 months, *Rock Around The Clock* was a sensation, generating record sales of more than $170 million. Today it holds pride of place in Washington's Honour Roll of Hits.

Eddie Kassner's successes during the late 1950s and early 1960s spanned a wide range of musical styles and tastes. From the classic rhythm and blues of Chuck Willis, whose mournful *I Feel So Bad* was recorded by Elvis Presley, through the teeny bop *Bobby's Girl* to big ballads, like the Ivor Novello award-winning *Portrait of My Love*, the hits kept coming.

Then in 1964, with the British invasion in full swing, a band called The Kinks was signed up in a management and publishing deal. A string of worldwide hits ensued, starting with *You Really Got Me*, followed by *All Day and All of the Night*, *Tired of Waiting For You* and *A Well Respected Man*. After almost 20 years, England had again become the focal point of Eddie Kassner's business. In 1966, he set up President Records. Within a year, the label had achieved its first chart success with records by The Symbols and Felice Taylor, the latter a Top 20 entry for the Barry White-written *I Feel Love Comin' On*. His next discovery was Britain's first successful racially-mixed group, The Equals, who stormed to the top of every European chart with *Baby Come Back*, written by the teenage band member Eddy Grant.

Success continued through the 1970s, both in songs and records. A licensing deal with a small Miami-based independent, TK Records, brought the 1974 disco phenomenon and bestseller, *Rock Your Baby* by George McCrae, while giving President its second No 1. On a visit to the Florida company, Eddie heard the B-side of a then unknown group and again proved his uncanny knack for judging popular taste. He brought the tapes back to England and weeks later, *Queen of Clubs* was high in the UK Top Ten leading to a run of hits for K C & The Sunshine Band.

The 1980s saw production deals with rock legends Denny Laine, Eddie Hardin, Ray Fenwick and, most significantly, keyboard wizard Rick Wakeman, whose 12-year association with the Kassner group, first as artist and then as writer, produced nearly 30 albums and over a hundred copyrights. President, now in its 13th year of business, has become one of the longest-established independent record companies owning many hundreds of master recordings. The publishing companies contain some 14,000 copyrights.

Edward Kassner is survived by his wife Eileen and three sons and two daughters.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANDREW, FRED ANDREW late of Colwyn Bay, Clwyd died there on 27 January 1996
(Estate about £8,000)

AVERILL, DERRICK STANLEY AVERILL late of Hammersmith, London W6 died at Fulham, London W6 on 7 November 1994
(Estate about £24,000)

BREWERTON, PATRICIA LILIAN BREWERTON Spinster late of Southwark, London SE1 died there on 20 December 1995
(Estate about £100,000)

BROWN, CHARLES HORACE FREDERICK BROWN late of Barnoldswick, West Yorkshire, died Keighley, West Yorkshire on 27 September 1995
(Estate about £36,300)

CONNELL, IRENE CONNELL Spinster late of Leicester died there on 23 July 1996
(Estate about £20,000)

COOKE nee LIPPETT, BESSIE IRENE COOKE nee LIPPETT Single Woman late of Hampton-in-Arden, Solihull, West Midlands died at Wythall, West Midlands on 20 February 1996
(Estate about £5,000)

CURTIS, FRANK CURTIS late of Chislehurst, Kent died at Sydenham, London SE26 on 2 July 1996
(Estate about £13,000)

DAVIES nee COOK, JANET EWING DAVIES otherwise JANET DAVIES nee COOK Single woman late of Stevenage, Hertfordshire died there on 30 April 1996
(Estate about £23,000)

DUFFELL, ROBERT DUFFELL late of Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear died at North Shields, Tyne and Wear on 23 January 1996
(Estate about £9,500)

FORBES, MARGARET IMRAY FORBES Spinster late of Upper Holloway, London N19 died there on 13 March 1995
(Estate about £14,000)

LUTTERIDGE, WALTER LUTTERIDGE late of Hitchin, Hertfordshire died there on 20 August 1995
(Estate about £10,000)

OBLATT, REGINA OBLATT Spinster late of Maida Vale, London W9 died at Kensington, London W10 on 23 August 1995
(Estate about £16,000)

PHILLIPS nee NICHOLSON, ROSE LILY PHILLIPS otherwise ROSE LILY ELIZABETH PHILLIPS nee NICHOLSON Single Woman late of Richmond Surrey died at Roehampton, London SW15 on 23 February 1996
(Estate about £48,000)

SAMUEL otherwise COPLAND, GEORGE WILLIAM ROBERTSON COPLAND SAMUEL otherwise GEORGE WILLIAM ROBERTSON COPLAND late of Chichester, West Sussex died there on 18 February 1996
(Estate about £5,000)

SCARRY, JOHN THOMAS SCARRY late of Lower Clapton, London E5 died there on 14 May 1996
(Estate about £10,000)

SHOOSMITH, ARTHUR CHARLES SHOOSMITH late of Clapham, London SW4 died there on 8 June 1994
(Estate about £17,000)

SMITH, OLIVE ETHEL SMITH Spinster late of Derby died there on 30 January 1995 (Estate about £5,500)

The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

ON THIS DAY

December 6, 1838

In 1791 Canada was separated into two parts — Upper and Lower, each with its own government. In 1837 a revolt in Upper Canada was soon quelled. The Act of Union in 1840 joined the two countries.

THE CANADA WAR.

A BATTLE — PATRIOTS VICTORIOUS.

(From the *Sackett's Harbour Journal Extra*)

"The steam boat Oneida, just arrived from Ogdensburgh, brings the following news:-

"A severe engagement took place at Prescott yesterday, commencing at 8 a.m., and lasting seven hours, between the Patriots and the British forces. About 500 Patriots and 300 British-regulars, together with some militia were engaged. The battle took place about a mile below Prescott, the Patriots having possession of several stone buildings. Several were killed and wounded on both sides. The British, however, sustained by far the heaviest loss. Colonel Young, the British commander, was among the killed, his body being pierced with seven balls. The British were twice repulsed by the Patriots, and finally left the field to wait for reinforcements.

"During the action the British put their dead and wounded into a barn, behind which they sheltered themselves, and the Patriots to dislodge them set it on fire, when it was consumed, together with its contents; immediately after which the British retreated to Prescott, for the last time.

"The steam-boat United States and two schooners were seized yesterday by the United States Marshal, under the neutrality law, and are now on their way to this port under his charge. Mr Foster, the steersman of the steam-boat United States, was killed by a grape shot from the British steam-boat *Experiment*, yesterday. The *Experiment* then attempted to rundown the schooner Charlotte, but was fired into by the Patriots on board of her, killing six and wounding five, after which the Experiment retreated to Prescott.

"A small boat containing four or five Patriots, crossing from Ogdensburgh to Prescott, was fired into by the British steam-boat Coburg and disabled and then she ran alongside and fired down upon them, sinking the boat and killing every person on board."

The *Montreal Herald* of the 16th has the following in reference to the affair at Prescott:-

"Information was received late on Tuesday evening that 800 men, with eight pieces of artillery had approached Prescott, from the opposite shore, on the morning of Monday, about 10 o'clock, and failed in an attempt to run two large schooners alongside the wharf. With the assistance of the steamers United States and Paul Pry, about 500 men of the sympathisers, with three guns, disembarked about two miles below the town. The Experiment, a Government armed steamer of small size, arrived at 5 o'clock on Monday afternoon, and exchanged several shots with the steamer United States, one of which struck her, and caused so much damage that she was compelled to retire to Ogdensburgh to get necessary repairs. The 93rd Regiment would be at Cornwall yesterday morning, another regiment was ordered on the march, and two companies of the royals left town yesterday morning for that place, and volunteers are flocking in from all quarters. The gallant Glengarry Highlanders will cut off the retreat of the brigade by the Rideau Canal, the armed steamer Experiment will effectually prevent their escape by the boats, and the troops and volunteers will attack them on both flanks, so that they are completely hemmed in."

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THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Major denies rift with Clarke

■ John Major and Kenneth Clarke were struggling to counter suggestions of a serious rift after the BBC reported that the Chancellor was prepared to lead a mass walkout if the Prime Minister gave into the Right over Europe.

Both denied that Mr Clarke had threatened to resign if Mr Major abandoned his "wait-and-see" on a single currency — the Chancellor in a statement in mid-afternoon and the Prime Minister in the Commons 20 minutes later .... Pages 1, 12

Duchess of Kent suffering from ME

■ The Duchess of Kent has chronic fatigue syndrome, the illness also known as myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) and has cancelled all of her official engagements. The news was released on the day she was to have attended the awards ceremony of Childline, a children's charity..................... Page 1

'Superbug' identified

Two patients at a London hospital have become the first to be infected with a mutant "superbug" that evades detection by thriving on the antibiotics used to kill it.................................. Page 1

Albright's top post

President Clinton chose Madeleine Albright, US Ambassador to the UN, to be the first female Secretary of State .... Pages 1, 17

European vision

Europe was offered its first outline of a more integrated union including plans for the abolition of all frontiers but the blueprint for a new treaty skirts the national veto............................ Page 2

Grey frontier ban

David Nicholson, 52, Tory MP for Taunton, who advocated a ban on pensioners retiring to the West Country to ease the rural housing crisis, was accused of double standards .... Page 3

Vatican dispute

The Pope told the Archbishop of Canterbury in a blunt discussion on women priests that only he had authority "as the successor to St Peter" to lay down doctrine.............................. Page 5

A-level intervention

Gillian Shephard intervened to safeguard A-level standards after a report showed that the examination's depth and rigour were under threat...................... Page 7

New drug success

A new drug treatment for osteoporosis, the disease which weakens bones, halves the risk of fractures, doctors said ...... Page 9

Rail vandalism fear

Railway vandalism is soaring and could lead to "mass murder" if urgent steps were not taken, the Chief Inspecting Officer of Railways said........................ Page 10

Passport assurance

Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, said that it would be "impudent" of Peking to threaten almost 140,000 people in Hong Kong who were given British passports in 1990 to provide reassurance after the 1989 Tiananmen Square killings .... Page 13

Heirloom sale

The Pretender to the French throne will sell off hundreds of family heirlooms after his children accused him of plundering their inheritance............ Page 14

Juppé misery

France's drive for a single currency is under threat and M Juppé's popularity has reached the lowest ebb of any leader in modern French history .... Page 15

Goering's £13 million

Swiss bankers used diplomatic pouches to smuggle Nazi gold and securities into Argentina, including a £13 million retirement fund for Hermann Goering, the Luftwaffe commander .... Page 16

£9-a-day cricketers humiliate England

■ England's cricketers experienced one of their most humiliating defeats when they were beaten — with a day to spare — by Mashonaland in Harare. Zimbabwe is is the weakest Test nation in the world and its part-timers are paid £9 a day. England had hoped for easy matches on their tour but have now lost two of their first three............................ Page 48

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Ballyedward and stable companion Flow are washed down in the cold air of Windsor after the Woodside Novices Chase won by Flow

BUSINESS

British Gas is to split itself into a gas sales company to be called Centrica and a gas production, exploration and gas transport business to be called BG .... Page 25

Economy: The Governor of the Bank of England sees no urgent need for a dramatic rise in interest rates but suggested that he would still like to see higher rates before the election .... Page 25

Brent Walker: A former executive of the leisure conglomerate was found guilty at Southwark Crown Court of attempting to pervert the course of justice.............................. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 5.4 to 4050.6. Sterling fell from 92.7 to 91.8 after a fall from $1.6382 to $1.6270 and from DM2.5602 to DM2.5295 .... Page 28

Football: Martin Edwards, the chairman of Manchester United, has hinted that the club may now make a significant move into the transfer market .... Page 44

Tennis: Tim Henman faces a semifinal meeting with Boris Becker in the Compaq Grand Slam Cup in Munich after a superb victory over MaliVai Washington .... Page 42

Rugby union: Andy Reed, the Wasps lock forward, seems certain to make his first international appearance for two years after being recalled to the Scotland squad against Italy......................... Page 41

Cricket: England A continued their excellent form on the tour of Australia with a two-wicket victory over New South Wales in a one-day game.............................. Page 46

Mind's art: Despite the Nazis' efforts to discredit it, a groundbreaking collection of more than 6,000 paintings by psychiatric patients has survived to go on show at the Hayward Gallery .... Page 36

Joking apart: Comedy leavens *The Eleventh Commandment*, a first play by comedian David Schneider about Jewish traditions and the generation gap .... Page 37

Best albums: David Sinclair reviews the best of the pop releases and recommends Tiger, a new British group that doesn't remind you of an old group .... Page 38

Reigning Supreme: Alan Jackson meets Diana Ross and finds her friendliness at odds with her reputation as an imperious and temperamental star .... Page 39

Valerie Grove interview: With Ismail Merchant of the Merchant-Ivory film-making team. He is a director for whom nothing is impossible and in addition, a wonderful cook.............................. Page 19

True confessions: What force guides Erica Wagner towards the glowing screen every week, unable to resist the power of *The X-Files*?.................................. Page 18

Living with nature: Cormorants are majestic birds and a whiz at fishing. That is what riles fishermen, so they shoot them .... Page 19

Caught off-guard: A choice in schooling is being eroded as the obsession with exam results pushes the independent schools to be alike .... Page 35

Bleak picture: Hundreds of disabled children cannot attend local schools. Now a drive to make state schools accessable can win the backing it needs .... Page 35

The explosion of a bomb in the heart of Paris has revived a nightmare. France cannot afford to "go it alone" but must now enlist the support of its European partners. The fight against terrorism is international. The creation of a common judicial area, which the 15 EU members will soon debate in Dublin, has never been more urgently required — *El País*, Madrid

Preview: Pop culture gets a bashing from two likely lads in a bedsit. *The Adam and Joe Show* (Channel 4, 12.10am) **Review:** Peter Barnard on a brilliant reconstruction of the Hillsborough tragedy........ Page 47

A Labour Europe

The Shadow Cabinet is in a state of deep denial over Europe. It cannot face bothering with any EU business that it does not expect to be a "wedge issue" in next year's election campaign .... Page 21

Clinton's choices

Ms Albright will have to deal with the perception that she has won the most senior post in American international relations for reasons more concerned with Washington politics than the world .... Page 21

Museum of fire

To all friends of the British Museum — among whom *The Times* certainly counts itself — Andrew Edwards's management report, detailed on page six today, must be deeply disturbing .... Page 21

BERNARD LEVIN

Again and again, we ask the question, the question that cannot be answered. What was a Jew, or a half-Jew, doing with Adolf Hitler? It is enough that almost all the people concerned are now dead .... Page 20

MICHAEL HOWARD

The Government has cross-party support for the Philip Lawrence Memorial Awards, and many organisations have given helpful advice. It is important that the awards complement the various award and grant schemes already in existence......................... Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

The Tory party increasingly resembles the Labour Party of the late 1970s and early 1980s, drawn inexorably to the issue which is certain to do it most damage .... Page 12

John Vassall, Soviet spy; **Edward Kassner**, music publisher; **Babrak Karmal**, former President of Afghanistan.......................... Page 23

British Museum funding; police comment on sentencing; UN Secretary-General; godparents; cuts for emergency planning......... Page 21

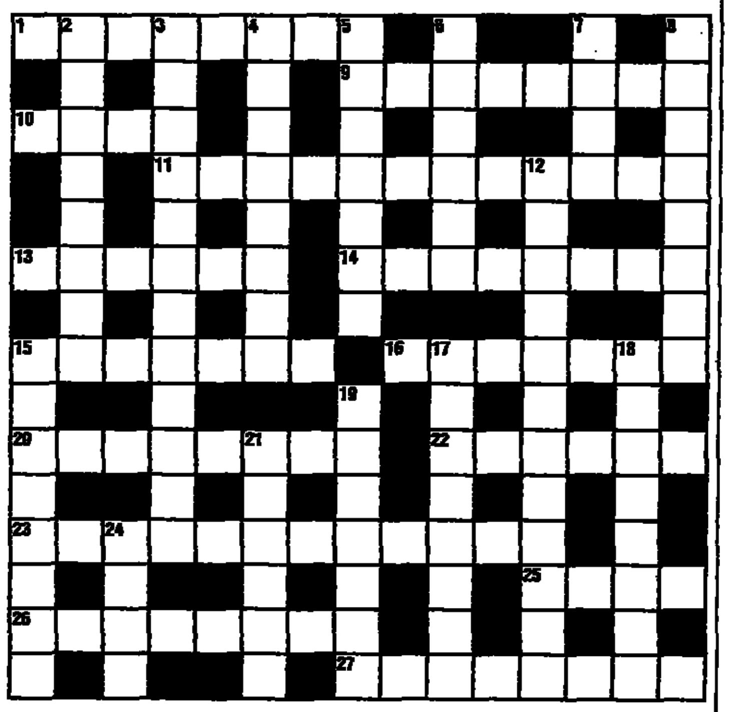
DISNEY

IN THE TIMES

■ MAGAZINE
James Bone meets Glenn Close, the star of *101 Dalmatians* and Hollywood's she-devil

■ WEEKEND
How a supermarket plan for Hovis country has split the town of Shaftesbury, Dorset

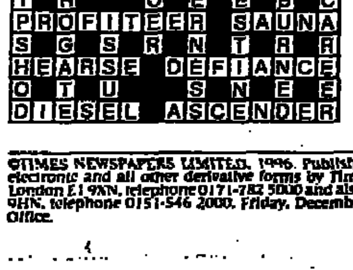
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,344



ACROSS
1 Shrink that may come to ward (4,4).
9 Poor attendee revealing sloth, perhaps (8).
10 Trip lasting some months in the US (4).
11 Shots from one's side in sort of match to inspire (8,4).
13 Run through stew recipe (6).
14 Casual worker delayed going to board for guidance (8).
15 Crowded condition of two beastly places one's put in (7).
16 Indulge finally in minor trickery (7).
20 Without parts of tail, rodent is unstable (8).
22 Compelling to reveal information in bed (6).
23 By gum, what a bounder! (4,8).
25 Somewhat insane Roman emperor (4).
26 Unstrict with a switch – is that how to teach? (8).
27 All the previous night, whisky available inside (8).

DOWN
2 Soldiers busy responding to initiative (8).
3 Travel costs, in shoe leather, swallowed up in benefit system (7,5).
4 Chance using a little money to get around detectives (8).
5 Such a speech can be a tonic (7).
6 Place for patient to book in old hospital (6).
7 Dry bed roll given to one (4).
8 I must leave brown study, books being in an awful state (8).
12 Notes my showing singular content after going bankrupt (7,5).
15 Joint veto misused in European assembly (8).
17 Cut tree that's dead on the outside (8).
18 The drone of wood-working (6-2).
19 Fresh people admitted in prison (7).
21 Overambitious high-flier exposed by the Sun (6).
24 Different education at first supported by college (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,343



Times Two Crossword, page 48

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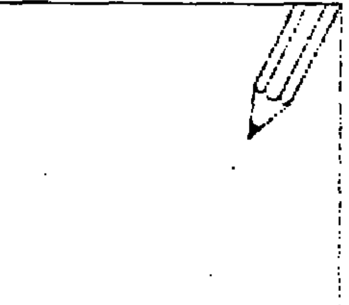
HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.51 am
Sun sets: 3.53 pm
Moon sets 1.45 pm
Moon rises 2.32 am

Full moon December 10

London 3.53 pm to 7.52 am
Bristol 4.03 pm to 8.01 am
Edinburgh 3.40 pm to 8.29 am
Manchester 3.51 pm to 8.11 am
Penzance 4.21 pm to 8.07 am



☐ **General**: England and Wales will be mainly dry with some sunshine, although fog may persist in central parts, becoming widespread. It will be rather cold. Scotland and Northern Ireland will become mostly dry as wintry showers die out.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia**: cloudy, perhaps some rain in places later. Wind northeast, light or moderate. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, SW England, S Wales, Central N**: dry, with but some fog persisting. Wind light and variable. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Channel Islands**: bright or sunny start, perhaps some rain later. Wind northeast, moderate. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland**: dry with largely clear or sunny skies. Some fog may persist. Wind light and variable. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, N Ireland**: isolated showers at first, otherwise sunny or clear spells. Wind mainly southwest, light. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland**: wintry showers dying out, some rain later. Wind mainly south or southwest, freshening. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Outlook**: some rain in North and West, sunshine elsewhere, although overnight fog and frost slow to lift.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

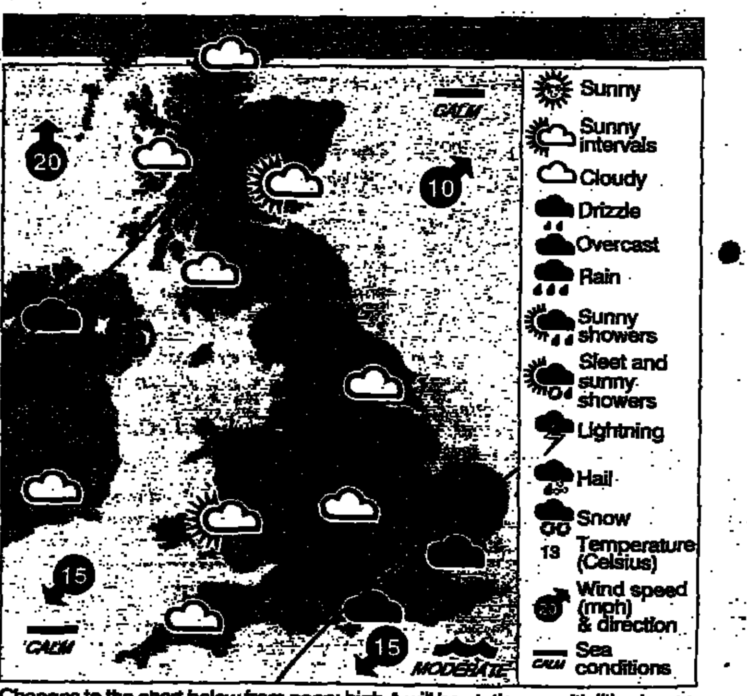
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	5.3	0.20	5	41	s	Leuchars	4.8	-	5	41	s
Anglesey	2.7	0.02	9	48	sh	Littlehmptn	4.8	0.06	11	52	s
Aspatria	5.1	0.01	3	37	s	London	4.1	-	9	48	s
Aviemore	4.4	0.06	3	37	s	Lowestoft	1.9	-	6	43	s
Belfast	2.2	0.01	4	39	b	Margate	-	0.01	11	52	s
Birmingham	2.1	-	4	39	fg	Minehead	4.3	0.08	8	46	b
Bognor R	5.5	0.16	8	46	s	Morecambe	0.5	0.01	5	41	du
Bournem'th	3.1	0.12	10	50	h	Newcastle	1.5	0.01	5	41	s
Bristol	-	0.01	5	41	fg	Norwich	2.4	-	6	43	s
Buxton	-	0.03	4	39	du	Oxford	1.0	0.02	4	39	fg
Cardiff	6.3	0.02	7	45	s	Penzance	X	0.13	11	52	sh
Clacton	3.7	-	7	45	s	Prestatyn	X	0.07	5	41	fg
Colwyn Bay	0.4	0.43	6	43	c	Ross-o-wye	0.7	-	3	37	fg
Cromer	2.3	0.01	6	43	s	Sandown	3.7	0.07	9	48	sh
Eastbourne	5.1	0.13	10	50	s	Saunton Snd	6.3	0.25	11	52	s
Edinburgh	0.9	-	4	39	c	Scarboro'	-	0.67	5	41	r
Eskdalemuir	4.1	-	3	37	s	Shanklin	3.9	0.07	10	50	s
Exmouth	6.2	0.01	7	45	s	Shrewsbury	0.3	0.01	8	46	sn
Falmouth	6.2	0.03	10	50	s	Skegness	5.7	-	5	41	s
Fishguard	4.4	0.37	7	45	b	Southport	-	-	6	43	b
Folkestone	4.3	-	11	52	s	Southsea	3.6	0.01	9	48	sh
Glasgow	-	-	1	34	c	Stornoway	2.7	0.12	1	34	sn
Guernsey	3.8	0.02	12	54	b	Swanage	5.4	0.18	9	48	sh
Hastings	4.8	0.03	11	52	s	Teignmouth	6.2	0.01	9	48	s
Hayling I	4.9	0.19	9	48	s	Tenby	6.1	0.01	8	46	s
Hove	3.8	0.13	10	50	b	Tiree	4.4	0.18	5	41	sh
Hunstanton	4.1	-	4	39	b	Torquay	6.6	0.01	9	48	s
Isle of Man	5.4	0.01	9	48	s	Ventnor	3.6	0.07	11	52	b
Jersey	6.9	-	10	50	s	West-s-mare	-	0.14	4	39	fg
Leeds	-	0.04	6	43	r	Weymouth	3.2	0.17	9	48	s

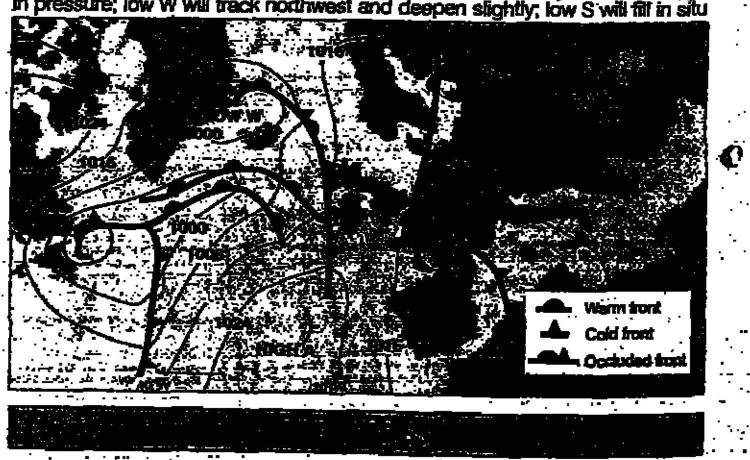
ABROAD

Ajaccio	16	61 s	C'phagn	6	43 f	Malaga	17	63 f	S Paulo	25	77 c
Akrotiri	14	57 f	Dublin	5	41 f	Malta	17	63 s	Salzburg	6	43 s
Alex'dria	18	64 ds	Dubrovnik	13	55 s	Melb'rne	16	61 c	Santiago	23	73 f
Algiers	19	66 s	Faro	15	59 s	Mexico C	18	64 s	Seoul	3	37 r
Amst'dm	7	45 f	Florence	9	48 s	Miami	24	75 s	Sing'por	31	88 f
Athens	14	57 f	Frankfurt	9	48 f	Milan	8	46 f	St'kholm	5	41 f
B Aires	30	86 f	Funchal	19	66 s	Montreal	3	37 s	Strasb'rg	9	48 f
Bahrain	25	77 f	Geneva	8	46 s	Moscow	0	32 c	Sydney	25	77 f
Bangkok	32	90 f	Gibraltar	16	61 c	Munich	10	50 s	Tangier	16	61 f
Barbados	27	81 c	Helsinki	4	39 c	N Delhi	21	70 s	Tel Aviv	20	68 s
Barcelona	16	61 f	Hong K	22	72 f	N York	6	43 f	Tenerife	21	70 c
Beirut	22	72 f	Innsbrck	3	37 s	Nairobi	24	75 f	Tokyo	12	54 f
Belgrade	2	36 fg	Istanbul	11	52 r	Naples	13	55 s	Toronto	1	34 c
Berlin	8	46 f	Jeddah	32	90 s	Nice	11	52 f	Tunis	19	66 s
Bermuda	X		Jo'burg	24	75 f	Oslo	2	36 sl	Valencia	17	63 f
Biarritz	9	48 r	Karachi	X		Paris	8	46 f	Vanc'ver	3	37 r
Borde'x	9	48 r	L Angels	17	63 s	Peking	4	39 s	Venice	8	46 s
Brussels	8	46 s	L Palmas	21	70 c	Perth	22	72 f	Vienna	5	41 s
Budapst	-1	30 fg	Le Touqt	8	46 f	Prague	5	41 s	Warsaw	3	37 s
Cairo	20	68 f	Lisbon	12	54 c	Reykjavik	-5	23 s	Wash'ton	9	48 s
Cape Tn	22	72 s	Locarno	5	41 f	Rhodes	18	64 f	Wel'gton	18	64 X
Ch'church	19	66 X	Luxembg	5	41 c	Rio de J	28	82 f	Zurich	7	45 s
Chicago	1	34 s	Luxor	22	72 s	Riyadh	22	72 s			
Cologne	9	48 s	Madrid	10	50 c	Rome	11	52 s			
Corfu	16	61 s	Majorca	18	64 f	S Fr'isco	X				

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday X = not available



Changes to the chart from noon: high A will be stationary with little change in pressure; low W will track northeast and deepen slightly; low S will fill in situ



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	9:33	5.8	10:14	6.1	Leith	11:09	4.7	11:26	4.8
Aberdeen	10:02	3.7	10:16	3.8	Liverpool	7:31	7.8	7:47	7.9
Avonmouth	3:04	10.1	3:33	10.6	Lowestoft	5:28	2.3	8:29	2.3
Belfast	7:24	3.0	7:36	3.2	Margate	7:57	4.0	8:39	4.1
Cardiff	2:50	9.2	3:17	9.6	Milford Haven	2:22	5.4	2:41	5.7
Devonport	1:42	4.5	2:00	4.6	Newquay	1:23	5.2	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dover	7:15	5.8	7:48	5.6	Oban	2:39	3.2	2:20	3.4
Dublin (N Wall)	8:15	3.5	8:28	3.6	Penzance	0:49	4.5	1:19	4.7
Falmouth	1:14	4.1	1:34	4.2	Portland	2:34	1.5	2:38	1.5
Greenock	9:00	3.0	9:48	3.1	Portsmouth	7:29	4.2	7:48	4.0
Harwich	7:35	3.4	8:08	3.5	Shoreham	7:24	5.2	7:49	5.1
Holyhead	6:50	4.7	7:08	4.8	Southampton	6:50	4.1	7:24	3.9
Hull (Albert D)	1:58	6.0	2:50	6.3	Swansea	2:29	7.5	2:52	7.8
Ilfracombe	2:01	7.3	2:25	7.8	Tees			12:16	4.5
King's Lynn	2:48	4.9	3:18	5.1	Walton-on-Naze	7:38	3.6	8:17	3.6

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Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, Channel Islands, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Church Lawford, Warwickshire, 0C (32F); highest rainfall: Scarborough, North Yorkshire, 0.67in; highest sunshine: Jersey, Channel Islands, 6.9hr.

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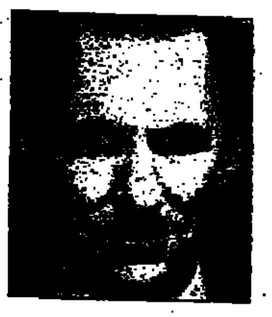
THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



ECONOMICS
Anatole Kaletsky fears a return of 'Versailles folly'
PAGE 29

EDUCATION
League table race is a threat to independent schools
PAGES 35

SPORTS
Lynne Truss makes her football excuses and leaves
PAGES 41-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO
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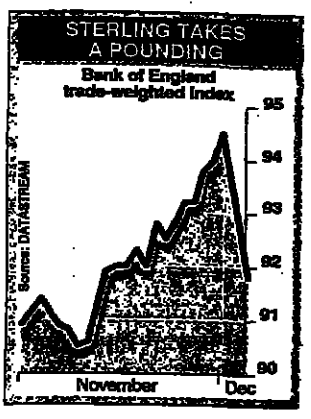
BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY DECEMBER 6 1996

George eases pressure for early rise in interest rates



By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday said that he sees no urgent need for a dramatic rise in interest rates, but strongly suggested that he would still like to see higher rates before the election.

His remarks, in testimony to the Commons Treasury Select Committee, were less hawkish on the need for tighter money than many pessimists in the City had expected, and the odds on a base rate rise at next week's monetary meeting lengthened.

Sterling fell sharply again, while money markets rallied strongly as the City adjusted its rate expectations down.

Also helping to ease pressure for higher rates yesterday was the latest distributive trades survey from the Confederation of British Industry, which showed that high street sales had slowed slightly in November and that there was a 5.4 per cent fall in new car registrations in the same month. Neither finding suggested that the economy is about to overheat.

Discussing last week's Budget, Mr George said that he agreed with the Chancellor that the package was contractionary, although not dramatically so, and said that the Bank had no quarrel with Kenneth Clarke's improved borrowing projections.

Overall, Mr George said, the Budget had not changed the Bank's view, expressed in its last *Inflation Report* just before the Budget, that rates would probably have to rise in due course if the Government is to hit its inflation target of 2.5 per cent or less. He said that the tone of the report was "specifically designed to suggest that there is no urgent need for a dramatic change" in rates.

However, pressed on whether he believed that interest rates would stay at their current level of 6 per cent until the election, he said: "I certainly wouldn't go that far."

Mr George's remarks also made clear that any rate rises that the Bank may seek in the months ahead are likely to be modest. He said that, if rates were raised — hypothetically — to 7 per cent now, inflation would fall significantly below 2.5 per cent. This suggests that the Bank is thinking in terms of rate rises of no more than half to three-quarters of a point.

He also told the committee that he did not believe that the economy was heading for an 1980s-style boom.

John Shepperd, chief economist of Yamaichi International Europe, said: "The Governor has injected a large dose of reality into the money markets, which have been far too pessimistic on rates."

The pound's index against a basket of currencies closed at 91.8, compared with 92.7 on Wednesday. Sterling was quoted at DM2.5295, more than three pfennigs below the DM2.5602 on the previous day and nearly eleven pfennigs down on the peak of DM2.6370 on Monday night, its best level since it left the ERM in 1992.

Retailers confident, page 26
Registrations slump, page 26
Anatole Kaletsky, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4051.2	(+6.0)
Yield	3.93%	
FTSE All share	1983.73	(+3.84)
Nikkei	20943.90	(+283.99)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6420.33	(-2.61)*
S&P Composite	744.64	(-0.46)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	100 11/32*	(101⅛)
Yield	6.47%*	(6.40%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 11/32%	(6 11/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	110 23/32	(111¼)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6275*	(1.6433)
London:		
$	1.6275	(1.6385)
DM	2.5336	(2.5605)
FFr	8.5480	(8.6465)
SFr	2.1441	(2.1676)
Yen	183.16	(185.43)
£ Index	91.8	(92.7)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5520*	(1.5604)
FFr	5.2410*	(5.2695)
SFr	1.3135*	(1.3210)
Yen	112.30*	(113.15)
$ Index	98.0	(98.1)

Tokyo close Yen 112.45

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb)	$23.40	($23.05)

GOLD

London close	$370.00	($369.95)

* denotes midday trading price

Going shopping

Great Universal Stores confirmed an interest in buying the Freemans catalogue business but fears a bid would run into problems with the Monopolies Commission. Gus also revealed its first profits decline in 48 years.
Page 30, Tempus 28

Bad reading

Reed Elsevier, the publisher, warned the market of tough trading in several parts of its business, sending the shares down 64p to £10.87. Stockbrokers have trimmed earnings forecasts.
Page 31, Tempus 28

Big payout cut feared after gas demerger

By Carl Mortished
and Oliver August

BG plc

centrica

New faces of British Gas

THE City fears a big cut in dividend will follow the demerger of British Gas into separate trading and pipeline companies. The concerns emerged after the utility revealed details of the structure of the two new companies and announced it had agreed with British Petroleum the first renegotiation of take-or-pay gas contracts.

British Gas shares initially surged on news that it had secured a breakthrough in reducing its £2-3 billion liability on high-priced gas contracts. However, the share price fell as City analysts absorbed the implications and some predicted that the payout next year could fall to 5p.

British Gas will pay 14.5p net this year, including an 8.1p final. But the company indicated that the dividend would be cut. "This payment should not be taken as a guide to likely future levels of dividend which are expected to be materially lower."

From February, the utility's 19 million customers will start receiving bills from a gas trading utility renamed Centrica. Roy Gardner, chief executive designate of the new company, confirmed that it will pay no dividends in the immediate future, leaving the pipeline and exploration company as the source of future payouts. However, the renamed BG plc intends to financially ring fence its two businesses.

David Varney, chief executive designate of BG plc, said the upstream exploration business would become self-financing. The dividend will be paid out of TransCo's current cost profit after servicing its regulatory capital and after paying tax. Mr Varney said the dividend would be affected by the MMC inquiry into TransCo's pricing formula. British Gas appealed against the Ofgas formula, which it said would cut £400 million from its after-tax cash flow.

Analysts were shocked by the dividend implications. One suggested that if the company had paid its 1995 dividend on the same basis, the payout would have been 5.7p, not 14.5p.

British Gas will pay £293 million to reduce the price of certain take-or-pay contracts. In a package of deals with BP and its own upstream gas production arm, the company will reduce its commitment by 2.8 billion therms and reduce the price to a market level on a further 13.5 billion therms.

Richard Giordano, chairman, said that the total 16 billion therms was "about 10 per cent of the volume we would like to address". He indicated that BP was not the largest party with which British Gas will have to renegotiate contracts.

BP will receive most of the £293 million payment but the take-or-pay renegotiations did not include Morecambe Bay, the massive gasfield which will form part of Centrica. Mr Giordano predicted that future take-or-pay deals would involve assets rather than cash payments.

The demerger announcement is believed to have been held up for several weeks by the contract re-negotiations. The timetable for the demerger shows the publication of demerger details on January 10. Trading in Centrica and BG shares will start on February 17 if the demerger is approved.

Mr Giordano will be chairman at both new companies but is expected to resign at Centrica within the first 12 months after the demerger.

Philip Rogerson, the British Gas deputy chairman, will perform the same role at BG.

Dame Stella Rimington, the former head of MI5, will become a BG non-executive director. Mr Varney said she had been chosen for her "insights into government and foreign affairs".

Pennington, page 27
Cash is king, page 29

New name game costs £250,000

BRITISH Gas spent £250,000 on finding new names for its two soon to be demerged businesses, BG and Centrica (Oliver August writes).

The name Centrica, which the company hopes will soon be as familiar as British Gas itself, is meant to convey a sense of change that marketing men felt was needed after the recent troubles over billing and disconnections.

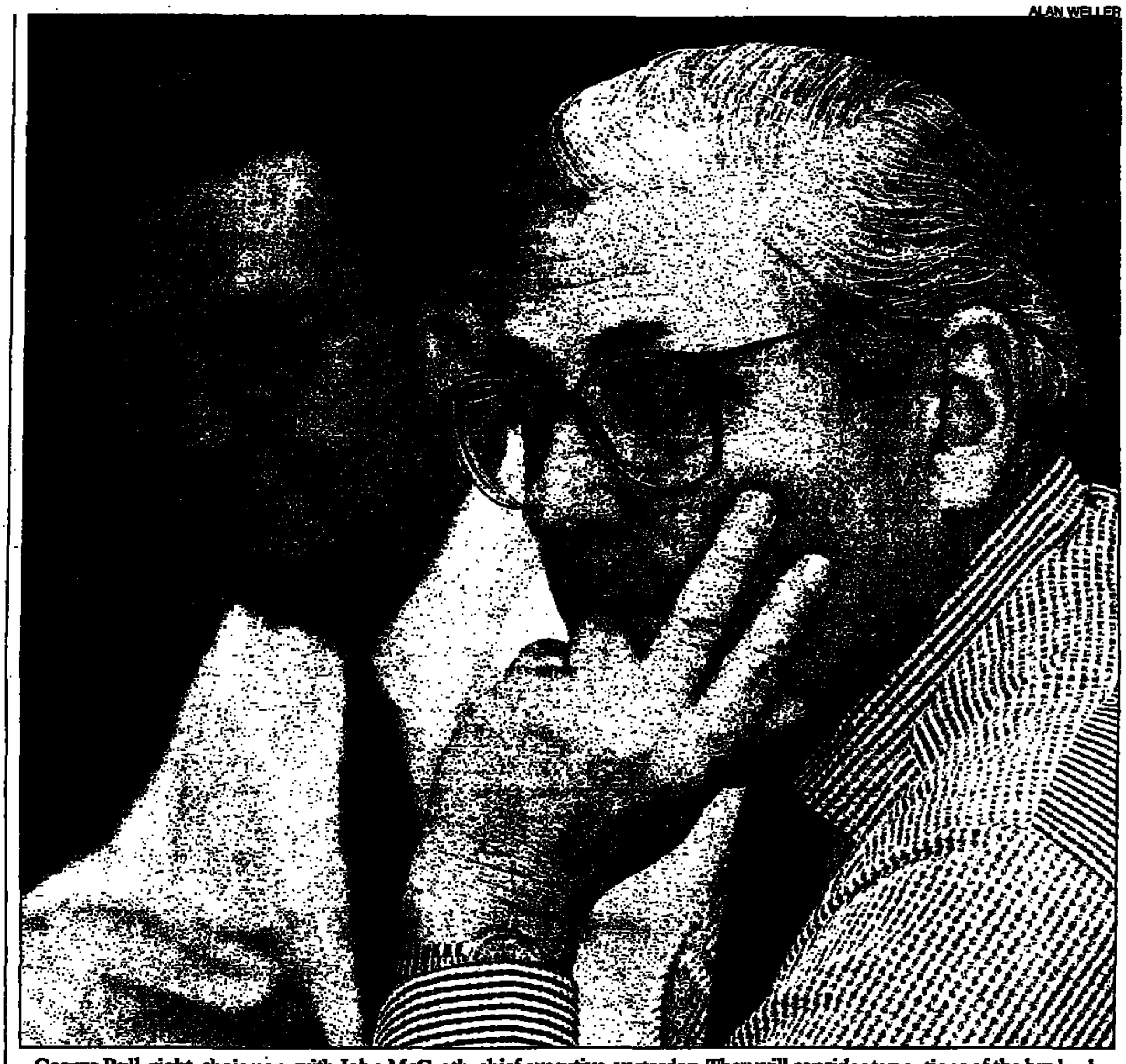
British Gas said yesterday: "Most people in this country still think we are the gas board. The new names will avoid any confusion."

The British Gas brand name will still be used by Centrica as a part of its corporate identity in the UK and by BG overseas. Both names were developed by Interbrand, a London consultancy. Simon Mottram, a director, said Centrica was coined from central. "It suggests a centralising source and supply network and, by extension, one which is safe and reliable."

Interbrand initially generated hundreds of names and British Gas chose a selection from a shortlist of 20.

These names were then investigated to see whether they were legally available around the world. Interbrand said it was important to make sure names were not culturally offensive or daft in other languages.

David Varney, left, and Roy Gardner will head the companies



ALAN WELLER

George Bull, right, chairman, with John McGrath, chief executive, yesterday. They will consider tax options of the buyback

Venture capitalist sues HSBC

By Jason Nissé

A VENTURE capitalist is suing HSBC Holdings for more than £1 million in bonus due, he says, after he retired. Hugh de Quervain, who until December 1992 was managing director of the venture capital arm of Midland Bank, now part of HSBC, is claiming he should be paid his share of the profits of HSBC Private Equity Europe for five years after his departure.

In 1988 he joined the business's executive incentive scheme, receiving £1.17 million of bonus payments in five years. A new scheme was drawn up before Mr de Quervain departed in 1992, under which, he claims, payouts were due for five years after he left.

HSBC says Mr de Quervain is not entitled to the money since he became a non-executive director of the Henry Ansbacher Acquisition Fund that invested in South Africa. HSBC says this is a competing business. Mr de Quervain says the fund does not operate in Europe.

GrandMet plans share buyback

By Alasdair Murray

GRAND METROPOLITAN, the food and drinks company, is to seek shareholder permission to launch a share buyback.

John McGrath, chief executive, said yesterday that a share buyback is definitely "on the agenda" but the company has to examine its tax options before deciding when to proceed. GrandMet will ask for shareholder approval to buy back up to 10 per cent of the company's share capital — worth around £950 million at yesterday's closing price — although the company emphasises that it is unlikely to make such a large repurchase.

Mr McGrath's comments came as the company unveiled a 6 per cent rise in full-year profits before tax and exceptionals, to £965 million. Exceptional charges totalled £550 million and mainly relate to write-downs following the sale of the European food businesses during the year.

The results were largely in line with expectations but analysts' fears over the surging pound hitting the company's dollar profits caused shares to slip back 10½p, to 446p. GrandMet hedges 80 per cent of its US profits but analysts calculate that profits could fall by around £30 million as a result of the impact of non-hedged profits from countries with currencies that track the dollar.

The improvement in performance was led by Pillsbury, the food business, which recorded a 30 per cent rise in operating profits, to £431 million. International Distillers and Vintners, the drinks business, also turned in an improved performance, with operating profits increasing by 4 per cent to £471 million.

The BSE scare hit profits at Burger King, which fell by 15 per cent to £167 million. GrandMet said that the company had lost around £10 million as a resdult of the crisis in Britain and Germany, although sales at the burger chain had now returned to normal.

The total dividend was increased by 7 per cent, to 16p. A final dividend of 10.05p is payable on April 7.

Pennington, page 27

Former Brent Walker aide guilty in £19m cover-up

By Robert Miller

A FORMER finance director of Goldcrest, Brent Walker's film-making subsidiary, was yesterday convicted at Southwark Crown Court of attempting to pervert the course of justice in a £19 million cover-up.

Donald Anderson, 43, a chartered accountant, was the missing defendant in the first Brent Walker trial in 1994. At that trial George Walker was acquitted and Wilfred Aquilina was convicted on a charge of false accounting and given an 18-month prison sentence suspended for two years and fined £25,000.

During the two-month trial at which 34 witnesses were called, the court heard that Anderson, a New Zealand citizen who lives in Richmond, Surrey, was involved in the creation of false documents between August 1988 and October 1990 to cover up £19 million of bogus profits recorded by the Brent Walker Group between 1984 and 1987. The Serious Fraud Office which brought the prosecutions said Anderson was involved in laundering £19.5 million through the Bahamas and the Isle of Man.

Anderson fled the UK in July 1992 during the course of a series of interviews with SFO investigators who worked with the Metropolitan Police fraud squad. Warrants for his arrest were issued on two occasions in January and March 1993. He returned to Britain and surrendered to police custody in November 1995.

The Crown case, headed by Peter Rook, QC, was that Brent Walker funded its own profits itself and companies which appeared to be independent, were falsely put forward as genuine third party customers. One of the so-called independent companies was UTM Jersey to which more than £10 million of profits were booked. Anderson was paid by the Brent Walker group for covering up the fraud and on at least three occasions collected bearer bonds and cash worth £700,000 from Geneva which had been laundered through the Bahamas and Liechtenstein.

Last night Anderson, who was convicted on a 10-2 majority verdict after 26 hours of deliberation, was in custody pending a possible sentence today.

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Tunstall declines to £8m

Tunstall Group, which provides specialist communications for the healthcare sector and social services, suffered a decline in pre-tax profits to £8.19 million, from £9.6 million, in the year to September 30.

Comparable results for the previous year were helped by an exceptional credit of £1.35 million, but Michael Dawson, chairman, admitted that the results were below expectations.

Tunstall shares fell 32½p, to 261p. In spite of a fall in earnings per share to 17.7p, from 21.1p, the total dividend is increased by 14.5 per cent to 5p a share with a 3.32p final.

Strong pound hitting Crown

Crown Products, the crafts, toys and giftware company, yesterday said that the current strength of sterling would affect profits of its flagship Hong Kong subsidiary.

With 40 per cent of sales denominated in Hong Kong or US dollars, the company gave warning that the currency impact, together with costs of merging two of its acquisitions, would leave profits below expectations.

Crown's shares, which joined the Alternative Investment Market at 50p last September, plunged from 33½p to 17½p yesterday, but partially recovered to close at 22½p.

Lovell loss

YJ Lovell, the housing and construction group, reduced its losses in the year to September 30, as it paid off half of its £54 million debt and sold its non-core businesses. Although sales fell to £254 million (from £301 million), a sharp drop in administration costs and a £1.39 million profit from disposals cut pre-tax losses to £11.8 million (losses of £32.4 million). A housing recovery in south-east England helped, but the overcrowded market maintained pressure on margins. Losses were 32.5p a share (84p loss). There is no dividend.

James Tuckey, chief executive of MEPC, said that the performance of the property company's UK portfolio was much as expected

Confidence of retailers at its highest since 1988

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

HIGH STREET retailers yesterday forecast a good Christmas in spite of new evidence suggesting a slight slowdown in retail sales.

Retail sales volumes slowed slightly in November, against expectations, the latest distributive trades survey from the Confederation of British Industry showed yesterday. But confidence among retailers is at its highest level since 1988.

CBI figures showed that the net balance of high street outlets reporting an increase in sales fell from 55 per cent in October to 48 per cent last month. But high sales are forecast for this month, when 53 per cent are expecting greater sales volumes.

CBI leaders pointed out that the three-month moving average figure remained broadly steady, at 50 per cent.

Alastair Eperon, CBI distributive trades survey panel chairman, said: "The upward trend in underlying sales remains encouragingly steady and consumers are expected to raise their spending in the run up to Christmas."

In spite of high street confidence continuing to increase, with a net balance of 37 per cent expecting their overall position to improve — the strongest rate since August 1988 — Mr Eperon denied comparisons with the boom of the late 1980s, which preceded the recession of the early 1990s. The CBI said shoppers were now more careful, and more cautious about price, with strong competition among retailers limiting their ability to raise prices. Average selling prices fell back from 51 to 36 per cent of companies surveyed. The CBI also said that high street sales growth had also been running for only about a year, compared with two or three years of high growth in the late 1980s.

On the basis of the survey of 15,000 retail, wholesale and motor trade outlets, the CBI said there was no evidence for any further rise in interest rates, with average selling prices in the shops rising at their slowest rate this year.

Retail sectors most closely related to the housing market, such as furniture, hardware, china, DIY and durable goods all saw some growth in sales compared with a year ago.

Employment in retailing continued to rise, after what CBI leaders said was a "significant" pickup in August, and investment intentions for the year ahead remained positive.

Wholesalers' sales volumes picked up by more than expected, rising at the quickest rate since September last year, while motor sales improved only slightly in November, after modest growth in the preceding two months.

Slowdown in car sales disappoints makers

THE growing momentum of the recovery in new car sales was halted last month with a 5 per cent year-on-year fall in registrations during November (Jonathan Prynn writes).

The sales dip came as a grave disappointment to car manufacturers, after October's record figures prompted hopes of a new economic boom.

Last month's sales totalled 135,342, just under 5 per cent down on October's figure and a 5.4 per cent drop from November last year. Private sales were down 6.1 per cent and fleet registration dropped 4.9 per cent.

The October figures, which were boosted by the Birmingham Motor Show, showed a 13 per cent annual increase.

In spite of the subsequent slackening of demand, this year's sales are still up nearly 4 per cent on the first 11 months of 1995.

Writedown in US hits MEPC net asset value

BY MARTIN BAKER

MEPC, the property company, disappointed the City with full-year figures that valued its property portfolio at 450p a share, a 7p fall in net asset value since last year.

The company declared itself pleased with a 14 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £140 million, from £122.6 million, but some analysts remained sceptical about even this figure. Critics pointed to a £4.3 million release of provisions arising from the company's withdrawal from the European market.

Much of the diminution in net asset value was attributed to a £31 million writedown of the Northridge Mall in Los Angeles.

The mall has had to be rebuilt because of an earthquake, and the refurbished centre has yet to recover its earlier levels of business. Michael Blakenham, chairman of MEPC, described the writedown as "the most disappointing event of the year".

Earnings per share rose 9 per cent to 22.9p. A final dividend of 14.75p is to be paid on February 5, leaving the total unchanged at 20p a share. MEPC's shares immediately fell back more than 2 per cent on the news, and closed 12p down at 440½p.

There were few surprises elsewhere. James Tuckey, chief executive of MEPC, said that "the performance of the UK portfolio, which accounts for 70 per cent of the group, is indeed where we would have expected it to be".

GM to sell divisions of Hughes

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE defence and aerospace divisions of Hughes Electronics, the world's second largest defence electronics contractor, are being put up for sale by its owner, General Motors, for about $8 billion.

The auction is expected to attract buyers such as McDonnell Douglas, Raytheon and Northrop Grumman. The divisions being sold contribute nearly half of Hughes's total revenues and include defence electronics, missiles, air traffic control systems and information technology.

Hughes said the sale would help it to refocus on the fast growing and increasingly lucrative satellite communications business. This includes its DirectTV satellite television operation which has been trying to break into the European market.

GM has been looking to spin off, or sell, Hughes which has been involved in many key technological developments, such as building the world's first laser, to concentrate on motor manufacturing. GM is expected to absorb Hughes's auto-electronics business but it may spin off DirectTV, analysts said. Last summer GM floated Electronic Data Systems, the information software group.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.18	2.00
Austria Sch	19.00	17.80
Belgium Fr	55.75	51.45
Canada $	2.335	2.175
Cyprus Cyp£	0.805	0.750
Denmark Kr	10.38	9.58
Finland Mkk	8.23	7.58
France Fr	9.06	8.41
Germany Dm	2.71	2.50
Greece Dr	419	394
Hong Kong $	13.35	12.35
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Israel Shk	5.59	5.04
Italy Lira	2628	2473
Japan Yen	199.30	183.30
Malta	0.637	0.582
Nethaclds Gld	3.022	2.782
New Zealand $	2.48	2.27
Norway Kr	11.24	10.44
Portugal Esc	269.50	251.00
S Africa Rd	8.26	7.48
Spain Pta	222.50	209.50
Sweden Kr	11.80	11.00
Switzerland Fr	2.30	2.12
Turkey Lira	178000	167000
USA $	1.743	1.613

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Newmont bids $2bn for Santa Fé Pacific

NEWMONT Mining has tabled an unsolicited all-shares takeover bid that values Santa Fé Pacific Gold Corporation at $2 billion. The proposed combination would create the largest gold company in North America, Newmont said. Newmont, based in Denver, has sent a letter to the Santa Fé board in Albuquerque, offering 0.33 shares for each Santa Fé share.

Based on Newmont's share price of $47.875 yesterday, the offer would be worth $15.80 a share to Sante Fé shareholders. Santa Fé was trading at $13.375 when both issues was halted on the New York Stock Exchange pending the proposed merger announcement. Ron Cambre, Newmont chairman, said: "The combination of Newmont and Santa Fé Pacific would be a win-win proposition for the stockholders of both companies." A spokesman for Newmont also said Newmont had been in talks with Santa Fé "from time to time" but declined to elaborate.

'Unfair' ring-back

OFTEL, the phone regulator, told BT that it has unfairly introduced its ring-back service, which informs customers when a line they have called becomes disengaged. Don Cruickshank, director-general, said BT "unfairly favoured" its own business by failing to notify the industry that the service would be introduced. Oftel said customers may have incurred unwanted charges because they were not adequately informed that the service was not free. He ordered BT to compensate them.

Treasury plans OEICs

THE Treasury yesterday produced plans to introduce European-style Open Ended Investment Companies (OEICs) to the UK, which could spark upheaval in the unit and investment trust industry. Treasury sources claimed that fund management firms may lose out unless they convert existing funds. "The whole OEICs package will offer much more flexibility to the investor," a Treasury spokesman said. OEICs offer a variety of classes of shares tailored to customers' needs.

Rothschild rating raised

J ROTHSCHILD ASSURANCE has raised £12 million of extra capital from its founders to increase its Standard & Poor's credit rating. The increase in capital, through a subscription for redeemable preference shares by St James's Place Capital, Scottish Amicable and Sir Mark Weinberg, will raise the rating from B to BBB, in keeping with other insurance companies, such as NatWest Life. Sir Mark said it was being done to meet rating agencies' technical requirements.

Hawtal issues warning

SHARES in Hawtal Whiting tumbled 29p to 105p yesterday as the car design company gave warning that it will do little better than break even in the second half. The company blamed the strengthening of sterling, continued poor US results and "an unexpectedly high level of quotation activity". Hawtal Whiting said quoting for new business had become significantly more time consuming and costly, but added that this would bring benefits through better programme control.

Surplus for Exchange

INCREASED trading volumes helped the London Stock Exchange to lift its income by £11.2 million to £105.5 million in the six months to September 30. Costs were cut by 3 per cent during the period to £65.6 million, leaving the Exchange with an operating surplus of nearly £39.9 million. After tax and provisions for the move towards an order-driven trading system next year, the London exchange reported a surplus of £9.7 million.

C&W appointment

CABLE AND WIRELESS is making Robert Lerwill its finance director in succession to Rod Olsen, who became deputy chief executive in July. Mr Lerwill, 44, is currently finance director of WPP Group, the world's largest marketing services company, whose businesses include J Walter Thompson. Richard Brown, the new chief executive of C&W, which operates in more than 50 countries, cited Mr Lerwill's expertise in international financing as his main advantage.

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GUS THE GREAT UNIVERSAL STORES P.L.C.

UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1996

HIGHLIGHTS

	1996	1995
• TURNOVER	£1,211.8m	£1,203.0m
• OPERATING PROFIT	£191.7m	£193.7m
• PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	£235.6m	£237.5m
• EARNINGS PER SHARE	15.5p	15.7p
• INTERIM DIVIDEND PER SHARE	5.5p	5.0p

"As foreshadowed at the Annual General Meeting in October the unaudited accounts for the half year show turnover increased by 0.7% and pre-tax profit lower by 0.8%.

Trade continues to be difficult in the Home Shopping Division. The strengthening of the pound since September, if maintained at the year end, will have a significant effect on the translation of the results of the overseas subsidiaries, particularly South Africa and Holland.

Trading performance for the second half is expected to follow the pattern of the first six months."

Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale
Chairman

The Great Universal Stores PLC
Universal House, Devonshire Street
Manchester M60 1XA

هكذا من الاصل

☐ British Gas cannot yet chart its future ☐ Tougher powers needed for regulators ☐ Green giant still to deliver gold

Turn off the gas plan

☐ IN PRINCIPLE, demerging British Gas was a good idea. But the world is full of ideas that are good in principle but do not work in practice. On the meagre facts available, the only certainty is that dividends would be slashed, perhaps from 14.5p to as low as 5p per share. If so, shareholders should vote the plan down.

At British Gas, some things are moving so fast that plans become out of date almost as soon as they are made. Others, such as resolving the contract disaster foisted on the group by Ofgas, are moving so slowly that they hamper any new strategy.

Presenting meaningful proposals for shareholders to decide in February looks like an exercise in painting air in the dark. BG plc, the imaginatively named new holding company for the Transco gas pipeline system, North Sea gas production and overseas operations, depends critically on Transco's price limits and regulatory regime, issues now in the hands of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The MMC's rulings will determine future cashflow and profitability. They will also critically influence the sensible financial structure for Transco and therefore BG's dividend policy. Richard Giordano, who would unfortunately remain chairman, proposes that the net current profit of Transco should be devoted to paying dividends. If that alone was used, dividends could be less than 6p a share before Ofgas depradations.

Centrica, the demerged gas supply business, would pay no regular dividend. How could it forecast any, when computing incompetence makes income a matter of guesswork, when its crucial overpriced take-or-pay contracts are still unresolved, and when their resolution might remove part or all of the Morecambe Bay field, its chief tangible asset? Centrica's potential value is as the distribution arm of some future multi-utility.

Unless the MMC comes to conclusions radically different from those of Ofgas, there is no case for encumbering a potentially good but cash-absorbing energy production and management business with a semi-nationalised utility from which sane investors would wish to extract as much cash as possible as fast as they decently can.

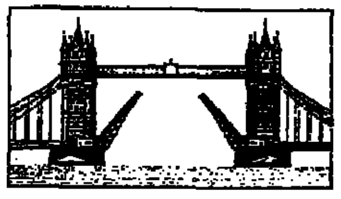
Only by separating Transco as a separate quoted company, as the regulator always wanted, could its dire future be properly and usefully exposed. Its true cost of capital would then be revealed. The *sine qua non* of a separate Transco would be to pay dividends at least at the current British Gas rate indexed to prices or earnings. Funds thus withdrawn would be replaced with loans at market rates, if Tranaco was not permitted a proper return. Only by establishing the true market rate for equity and debt can Transco persuade its regulators to allow an economic return.

That would leave shareholders with one more dodgy piece of paper. As yesterday's plan suggests, however, their interests rarely coincide with the board's.

Watchdogs need an eye on the ball

☐ THE great, the good, and the not so good among financial watchdogs gathered in London yesterday to debate "City regulation in the 21st Century: Evolution or Radical Change?" They should worry about the rest of this decade first.

PENNINGTON



A rumour swept the conference floor that Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, whose lucrative contract was due to expire next April had won a further two years. First question: Why? Although an able operator, Sir Andrew has singularly failed to clear up the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling scandal.

Having finally woken up to what was going on in the industry, the SIB passed the bulk of the work to the fledgling Personal Investment Authority led by Colette Bowe. The PIA was ill-equipped to deal with the massive problem and, despite its protestations to the contrary, is still struggling badly with the pensions review. It claims that PIA rules make handing out draconian fines and penalties for foot-draggers a long-drawn-out process. But progress is what counts, not punishment. In any case, fellow watchdog Imro, albeit with a smaller workload on pensions, has handed out some stiff fines and harsh words.

Yesterday's conference was also enlivened by the neat political jousting among regulators for top job under a possible Labour administration. Mike O'Brien, Labour's City spokesman, gave little away beyond his tidy desire to fold all the watchdogs into one body.

Angela Knight, the Treasury Economic Secretary, still eschews primary legislation to change the Financial Services Act. As often argued in this column, however, watchdogs need tougher powers, not least to lessen reliance on courts.

Christopher Sharples, former head of the Securities and Futures Authority, argues: "We now have a professional cadre of regulators. Practioners, while playing an important role, are no longer as mission-critical as they once were." If some regulators have come of age, they still lack tools to do the best job.

Uncertainty is also tempting the best to jump ship and join the private sector. That would be no help to investors.

GrandMet yet to purge its past

☐ GRAND Metropolitan used to resemble its Häagen-Dazs ice cream — stylishly packaged and superficially exciting but at heart not nearly as sexy as the advertising promised. Under John McGrath, its new chief executive, the group has fallen over itself to purge that disappointment, neatly linked to former chairman Lord Sheppard, and convince the City that the virtues of brand building and bolt-on acquisitions are a bigger turn-on than scattergun megadeals.

GrandMet has ruled out big buys and has finally managed to brush aside talk of demerger, for the time being. Instead, it is talking up the benefits of a share buy-back, although shareholders will not see any cash the board cares to return to them for at least a year.

For all the dedicated pruning by the new top team, the previous sins of GrandMet still linger. It was forced to charge £550 million more "exceptional" losses in its latest accounts and there will be more as disposals continue this year. There are also near-forgotten basket cases, notably Inntrepreneur, which GrandMet is a long way from burying. Even Häagen-Dazs, epitome of the "new" GrandMet, is yet to make a profit in its European operations after 5 years. This is hardly reassuring as Pillsbury favourites start to be promoted heavily in Europe.

The measure of the task is that GrandMet still earns less on its assets than its nominal combined cost of capital, even if the gap is starting to close. For all the attempts at reform, the ghost of the past is set to haunt it for another Christmas or two.

Courtesy counts

☐ RUDE colonials Julian Treger and Brian Myerson did nothing for their image by failing to turn up for the extraordinary meeting of Greycoat they called as part of a campaign by their UK Active Value that has cost the stretched property company £300,000 to no apparent purpose. Kenwood Appliances, their latest target, will hope to avoid active value being destroyed by clumsy smash and grab tactics.

PowerGen in £200m buyback

POWERGEN, the electricity generator, spent £202.7 million buying back 5 per cent of its shares yesterday, its third buyback in the past 12 months (Keith Rodgers writes).

It bought 33.5 million shares through Kleinwort Benson and UBS at 605p a share, against an opening price of 571½p. The shares closed at 589p.

Powergen originally indicated that it would buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares when it announced the programme with interim results last month. The company refused to comment on further purchases yesterday, but analysts believe that it may buy a further tranche in spring.

In the past year, PowerGen has bought back two tranches, worth 4.8 and 5.3 per cent of its share capital.

Imperial Tobacco to step up expansion overseas

By Alasdair Murray

GARETH DAVIS, chief executive of Imperial Tobacco Group, revealed yesterday that the company was aiming to accelerate its expansion internationally to compensate for the static UK cigarette market.

Mr Davis said that the 15p increase in duty on cigarettes, announced in last week's Budget, would put further pressure on the total market size in the UK, although he added that Imperial was confident of maintaining volumes.

Imperial, which makes brands such as Regal, Embassy, John Player Special and Superkings, yesterday unveiled a 5 per cent increase in full-year profits, excluding interest and tax, to £366 million. Turnover rose by 7 per cent to £3.8 billion, while the trading margin rose from 46.6 per cent to 47.8 per cent.

The results, which cover the company's last year as part of Hanson before its demerger in October, were well received in the City. Imperial's shares closed up 4½p at 373½p compared with an opening demerger quote of 375p.

The international division led the improvement with a 55 per cent increase in profits to £70 million. JPS American blend continued to make inroads in France and Imperial now has a 4 per cent market share. Export sales of Golden Virginia also continued to grow, especially in Belgium, although the company said much of the growth related to tobacco smuggling because of excise differences with the UK.

Davis: aiming to cut debt

The company added that it was continuing to build a solid foundation in Greater China and other parts of the Asia-Pacific region and had recently launched sales of Superkings in South Africa.

In contrast, UK profits were flat at £303 million although the company increased its share of the market from 37.1 per cent to 38.2 per cent. Mr Davis added that the trend in UK tobacco market away from higher price brands had benefited Lambert & Butler brands, which now account for 11 per cent of total UK market.

Imperial is facing 12 legal cases for smoking damages in the UK, including the first no-win, no-fee case led by Leigh, Day and Co. the solicitors. But the company said it is confident that it will ultimately see off the legal challenge.

Imperial inherited a debt pile of £1.1 billion after demerger and Mr Davis said it is aiming to reduce this over the coming year using the company's strong cash flow.

There is no dividend.

Tempus, page 28

Hanson delivers dividend cut

By Martin Baker

HANSON, the conglomerate that recently demerged its tobacco and chemicals businesses, delivered a larger than expected cut in its effective dividend rate yesterday, as it reported full year pre-tax profits of £1.8 billion, up from £1.32 billon last year.

This year's figures were bolstered by an exceptional gain on disposals of £609 million. Fully diluted earnings per share were 25.6p, compared with 18.2p last year. A dividend of 1p will be paid on January 10 for the first quarter, although the group is to discontinue its practice of announcing quarterly dividends in favour of semi-annual payments, Andrew Dougal, finance director, said.

During its long years of unbroken success, Hanson consistently delivered steadily improving dividends. The break-up of the group has brought about a sharp cut in the dividend stream from the on-going companies.

Hanson floated Millennium Chemicals and Imperial Tobacco this autumn, and its energy group is due to be demerged by February. The building materials and equipment divisions will remain as the "new" Hanson. Mr Dougal said that the demerger was on track.

Within the group, building materials and equipment had to cope with "a tough year". ARC's profits slipped to £69 million (£84 million) Hanson Brick also reported smaller profits of £27 million (£38 million). In the energy divsion, Eastern performed above expectations, adding £303 million to an overall energy divison profit of £458 against £167 million in 1995.

Profits slip at London Clubs

HIGH ROLLERS stayed away from London's casinos in the first half of the year, causing the interim profits of London Clubs to slip to £19.1 million, from £19.2 million last year (Alasdair Murray writes).

Alan Goodenough, chief executive, said that the company's middle and lower-market casinos had performed strongly, but profits at the up-market venues — especially the Ritz — had suffered because of a low win/drop ratio. London Clubs is on the verge of relocating the Ritz club to a new site in St James's Street, London, so that it can improve facilities.

Overall turnover rose 9 per cent, to £94 million. The interim dividend rises 5 per cent, to 2.625p, due on January 31.

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The Financial Times 7/10/96 (from MORI survey)

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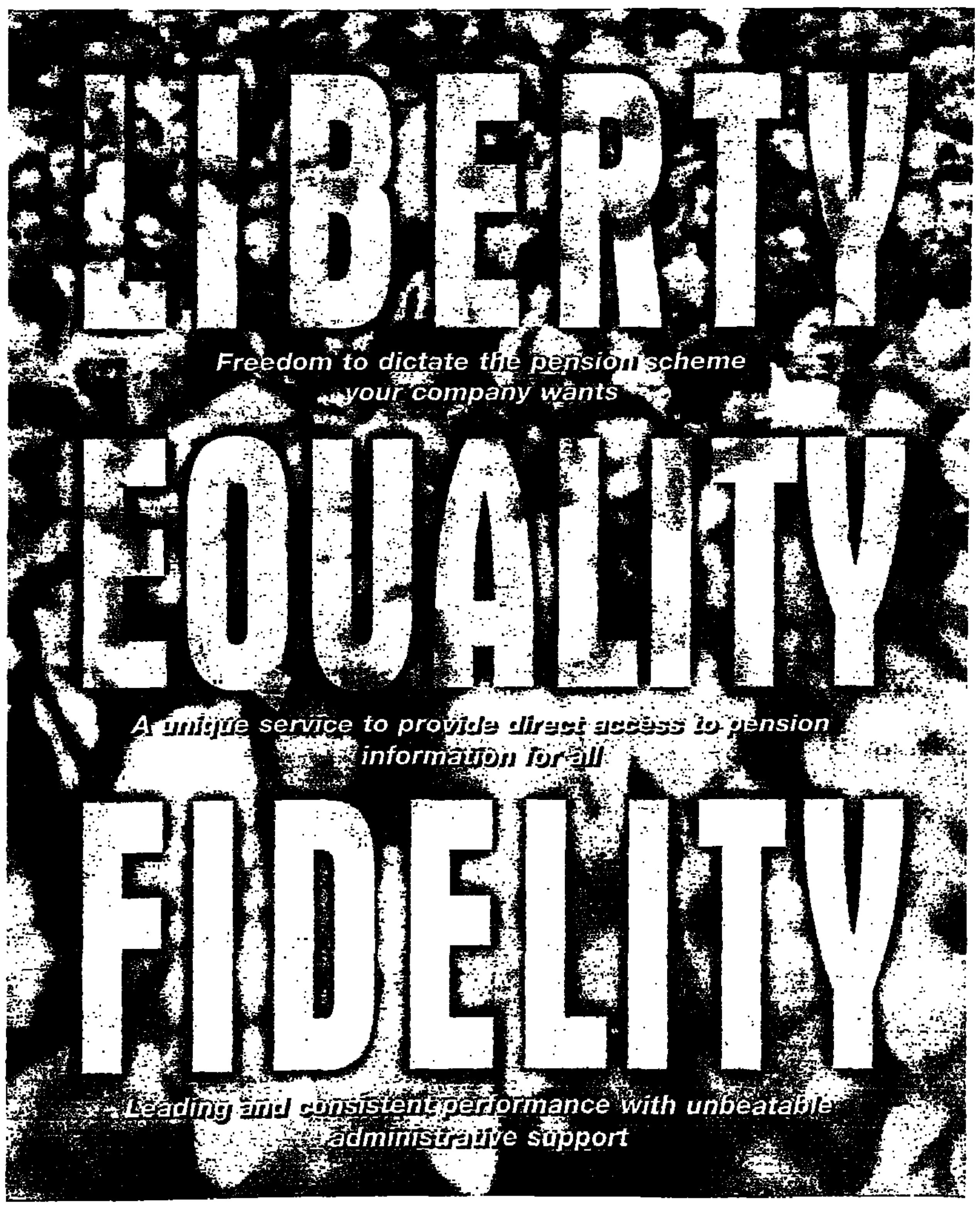
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كفر علي الحاج

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Reed shares slump after gloomy trading warning

A SHARP fall in the price of **Reed International** took some of the edge off another robust performance by the London stock market.

Shares of Reed dropped 64p to £10.87½ after touching £11.86 earlier. The fall came after a gloomy trading statement from Reed Elsevier, the company owned jointly by Reed International and Elsevier of The Netherlands.

The Anglo Dutch publishing group told the market that the pound's strength could wipe 4 per cent off pre-tax profits in the full year. That compares with the 2 per cent contribution currency transactions made to the outcome in the first six months.

HSBC James Capel, the broker, then added to Reed International's woes by downgrading its profit estimates for full year. It is thought Capel has lopped off £70 million from its original forecast of £960 million.

Earlier in the day, the equity market had been fuelled by positive news from a clutch of blue-chip companies and claims from Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, that he was in no rush to push up interest rates again. This had enabled the FT-SE 100 index to climb above its closing high of 4,073.1 achieved on October 21. It touched 4,076.0 before another opening fall on Wall Street took its toll. The index closed 6.0 up at 4,051.2 as turnover reached a healthy 910 million shares.

The market warmed to news from **British Gas**. The price touched 228p before settling 3p up at 217p after the company unveiled demerger proposals and announced it had unwound some of its costly "take-or-pay" North Sea gas contracts.

Under the terms of the deal, British Gas has agreed to fork out £293 million, allowing it to reduce orders for gas supplies by 2.8 billion therms in the next five years with a price reduction on a further £13.5 billion therms.

The group now has to reach similar deals with other suppliers. The take-or-pay deals cost it about £500 million a year. British Gas has also published the timetable for next year's flotation of its trading arm to be called Centrica.

PowerGen also stood out with a rise of 17½p at 589p after the arrangement for a buyback of 5 per cent of its issued share capital. Kleinwort Benson and UBS, the brokers, paid 605p for 33.5 million shares. A total of 37.4 million shares had traded by the close.

BT was another firm market, climbing 13p to 399½p on the back of arbitraging between BT shares and those of MCI in the US. Earlier there were reports that MCI was about to sell parts of its operation to avoid upsetting regulators before the proposed merger between the two companies. Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive of BT, picked up 130,000 at 363p, or £471,900, as part of a remuneration package.

Lloyds TSB lost an early 7p lead to close 6½p down at 418p in spite of NatWest Securities raising its profit forecast for the full year and urging clients to add to holdings. NatWest has raised its forecast for 1996 by 5 per cent to £2.5 billion and for 1997 by 6 per cent to £2.9 billion. It sees the group as the most profitable of the banks.

British Energy firmed 1p to 141p. The shares have been a weak market this week after the sale of the Government's remaining 81 million shares in the company. HSBC James Capel picked up the stake as part of a bought deal, but a large number of shares continue to overhang the market.

Full-year profits from **Grand Metropolitan** fell short of the billion pound mark although the figure was struck before an exceptional debit of £577 million. Brokers have begun downgrading their forecasts for the full year because of worries over the impact of strong sterling on profits. The price finished 10½p lower at 446p.

There were few surprises in full-year figures from **Hanson**, with profits growing to £1.8 billion boosted by disposal gains of £609 million. Even so, there was heavy turnover in the shares with 26.7 million traded as the price firmed ¼p to 80p. **Imperial Group**, which was hived off earlier this year from Hanson, finished 4½p better at 373½p.

A profits warning left **Crown Products** 11p lower at 22½. The extra cost of merging TAG and Levercrest is going to leave profits in 1996 below market expectations. The company is feeling the effects of a strong pound, which has risen 10 per cent against the Hong Kong dollar.

Full-year figures from **Great Universal Stores** received a lukewarm response from the City, with the price falling 24½p to 651½p as brokers again focused on the problems with the group's mail-order operation. Nick Bubb, retail analyst at Mees Pierson, the broker, said that the market had been carried away by the recent acquisition of Experian and gave a warning there was no quick fix for the mail-order business.

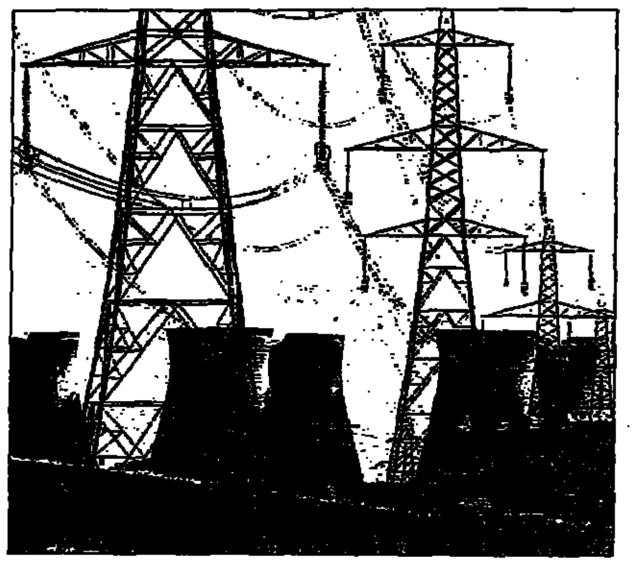
Cadcentre made an encouraging start to first-time trading after a placing by Albert E. Sharp at 200p. Shares in the group, which specialises in 3D computer systems for cable projects, opened at 232p before racing up to 246p. The price eventually settled at 240½p, a premium of 40½p as almost 1.5 million shares changed hands. News of an agreed bid sent **Gradus** 34p higher at 159½p. **Headlam Group**, the floorcover specialist, is offering about 164p a share, valuing the entire group at £32.9 million. Headlam fell 5p to 278½p.

☐ **GILT EDGED:** Eddie George's apparent reluctance to raise rates again hit the bond market for six as the spectre of higher inflation came back to haunt investors.

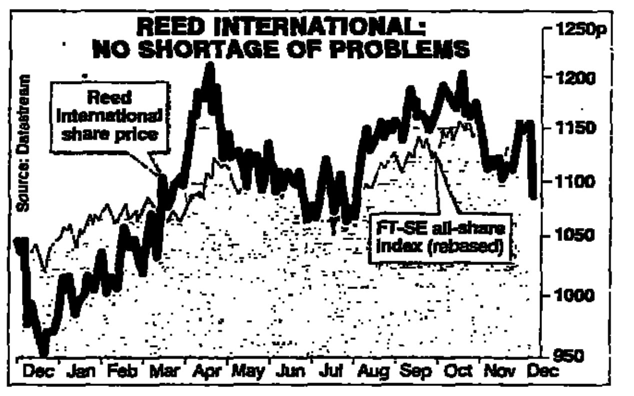
In the futures pit, the March series of the Long Gilt fell sharply. After reaching a high for the day of £111$\frac{11}{16}$, it closed £$\frac{27}{32}$ lower at £109¾ as 87,000 contracts were completed.

In the cash market opening gains were quickly wiped out, leaving losses of more than £1 at the longer end. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 fell £1$\frac{7}{32}$ to £103$\frac{5}{16}$, while in shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 8 per cent 2000 was £$\frac{1}{16}$ lower at £103$\frac{3}{32}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street stocks were slightly lower in early trading, dragged down by a sell-off in the bond market. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 2.61 points to 6,420.33.



PowerGen stood out with an increase of 17½p to 589p



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	6420.33 (-2.61)
S&P Composite	744.64 (-0.46)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	20943.90 (+283.99)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	13491.56 (+57.32)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	628.44 (-2.37)
Sydney:	
AO	2383.3 (+12.6)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2909.91 (+43.84)
Singapore:	
Straits	2214.17 (+19.81)
Brussels:	
General	10523.50 (+12.11)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2292.50 (-16.15)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	828.80 (+2.20)
London:	
FT 30	2797.1 (-2.0)
FT 100	4051.2 (+6.0)
FTSE Mid 250	3325.8 (+13.9)
FTSE 350	2012.1 (+3.7)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	1893.77 (+2.89)
FT All-Share	1983.73 (+3.64)
FT Non Financials	2059.13 (+2.30)
FT Fixed Interest	117.61 (-0.21)
FT Govt Secs	95.11 (-0.32)
Bargains	37242
SEAQ Volume	910.8m
USM (Datastrm)	194.16 (+0.82)
US$	1.6270 (-0.0112)
German Mark	2.5295 (-0.0307)
Exchange Index	91.8 (-0.9)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.3089
£:SDR	1.1502
RPI	153.8 Oct (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	153.6 Oct (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Access Plus (90)	100½	...
Advanced Power Cm	79½	...
Beechcroft	4	...
Brands Hatch Leis	187½	...
Britt Allcroft	152½	...
Cadcentre	240½	...
Car Group	162½	...
Charterhouse	6¼	...
Dawn Til Dusk	121½	...
Deep Sea Leis (160)	162½	...
Druid Grp	314½	- 4
Exeter Inv	97½	...
First Russian Frts C	587½	...
Future Int Tele (115)	126½	...
Geo Interactive (100)	80	- 3½
Goshawk Insce	122½	...
Grantchester Hldgs	131½	...
Kern River	50½	...
Majestic Wines	227½	+ 1
Oliver Ashworth	135	...
Provend (125)	127½	...
Recycling Servs	99½	...
Scot Highland Htls	139½	...
Second St David Inc	112½	+ 1
Second St David Res	9½	...
Second St David Z Pf	185	...
Semple Cochrane	225	- 1
Snakeboard (3)	3¼	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Arcadian Intl n/p (45)	1	- ¼
Bodycote Intl n/p	106½	- 1
INVESCO n/p (220)	47	+ 1
More Group n/p (600)	22½	...
Regalian Prps n/p (30)	1¼	+ ¼
Stakis n/p (82)	8	- ½
Vision Gp n/p (235)	58½	- 3

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Norbain	488p (+21½p)
Maiden	277½p (+11p)
BT	399½p (+13p)
Ryl Bk Scot	534p (+11p)
Man Utd	583½p (+11p)
London Indl	354p (+10p)
Logica	889p (+27½p)

FALLS:

Barbour Index	318p (-12p)
Go-Ahead	410p (-10p)
Grand Met	446p (-10½p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

Cracks in the walls

AFTER six years of unchanged dividends, MEPC is probably heading for its seventh and investors might well wonder why they should wait for growth in 1998. The company had ready explanations for the underperformance: MEPC could not predict the takeover of Broadway, the anchor department store at Northridge by a competing chain and the resulting closure of the main draw to its California centre. Nevertheless, investors were previously unaware that Broadway owned its part of Northridge and the realisation that anchor tenants at MEPC's US shopping centres could, under special circumstances, quit the malls, is sobering.

Earthquakes, real and metaphorical at Northridge, have put a huge damper on MEPC's big play on retailing in the US and the know-it-alls will nod sagely and repeat the adage that America is a graveyard for British property developers. But excluding Northridge, America looks satisfactory with a 13 per cent total return. The return from Australia were only 6.7 per cent and the UK generated a mere 8.1 per cent.

There lies the nub of the problem. MEPC's average cost of capital is about 12 per cent, but, currently, the company's internal rate of return is clearly well below the threshold. On that measure MEPC is destroying, not creating value. Of course, the company is lumbered with dud properties from the past and new assets will yield better returns. MEPC is now targeting 12.5 per cent IRRs. But the question for investors must be: is it worth the effort? A business which yields a return marginally ahead of its cost of investing has not much to recommend it.

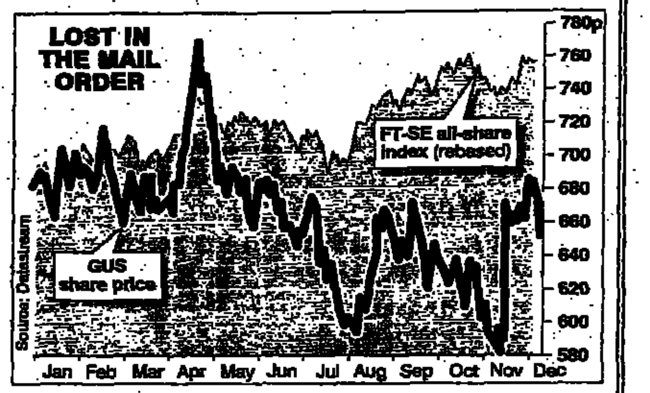
GUS

LORD WOLFSON of Sunningdale's feet were barely under the chairman's desk before he announced the £1.2 billion purchase of Experian, the data suppliers. The deal made GUS look dynamic and purposeful and gave many in the City the impression that his arrival at Great Universal Stores had instantly awakened retailing's slumbering giant.

Yesterday came the unpleasant reminder that it will take more than a few weeks and another man called Wolfson to reinvigorate GUS's mail order business. The weak South African rand was partly to blame but the hole in the first-half figures was mainly because of a 2.4 per cent fall in UK mail order sales.

Mail order has great potential, but GUS is still in the wrong sort: old-fashioned 1,000-page catalogues and agents earning commission and demanding incentives.

GUS, we were told, is now looking at various ways of moving into the more profitable and fast-growing market epitomised by Next Directory and Lands' End. It is also looking at taking Freemans off Sears' hands. The latter move would be essentially defensive — ensuring no one else got Freemans — and would be likely to attract a referral to the MMC. More effort spent on seeking the right way into the niche catalogue markets would be a far more productive use of time, and would make the most of GUS's still considerable cash resources.



Reed Elsevier

THE UNKIND have always said that Reed Elsevier is better at acquiring companies than managing them. The Anglo-Dutch publisher yesterday gave substance to the allegation with an end-of-year trading statement that came close to a profits warning. It noted, among other things, that growth in electronic publishing was still insufficient to offset declines in hard-copy publishing, and that the performance of its European exhibitions business was underwhelming.

None of these factors on its own constitutes a crisis. But collectively, they left the uneasy feeling that Reed has taken its eye off the ball; analysts responded by trimming their forecasts.

Reed is good at buying. Lexis-Nexis, the last big purchase, has reported steadily increasing profits and confirmed Reed's theory that its best prospects are in business-to-business electronic publishing and the on-line market. But that was two years ago; Reed has made no significant acquisition since then, though rumours abound that it would like to acquire CompuServe or Bloomberg. Unfortunately, the world and his dog can see Reed coming, and prices have risen accordingly. Reed may well have to bide its time before it makes another splashy deal. In the meantime, it should spend money on better managers.

Imperial

IMPERIAL TOBACCO left the Hanson group crowned with laurels. Initial trading pushed the tobacco company's stock higher — an almost forgotten experience for Hanson shareholders — and at one stage broke the 400p level which many analysts suggested was its natural value.

Since then the share price has lagged its early success — hit by the spread of American tobacco litigation to the UK. Imperial faces 12 lawsuits, including one supported by lawyers working on a no win-no fee basis. Imperial maintains it will come to nothing.

The addition of Gallaher to the sector next year will help Imperial which wants to be assessed on profits, not sentiment. But the battles with the health lobby are unlikely to diminish and these will always have a drag effect on the share price.

Imperial suffers from its heavy weighting to the UK where it needs to run fast just to keep its sales level. Yet, its relatively small international exposure — up to 19 per cent of profits from 13 per cent in 1995 — leaves room for growth.

The company hopes to make gains abroad, especially in the emerging markets. But for all the company's hard work, shareholders are still betting on an unlikely end to anti-tobacco puritanism.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Dec	895-892	Mar	1025-1022
Mar	953-952	May	1035-1034
May	972-971	Jul	1043 BID
Jul	988-987	Sep	1053 BID
Sep	1003-1001		
Dec	1012-1010		Volume: 6714

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1313-1312	Sep	1220-1216
Mar	1252-1251	Nov	1220-1215
May	1230-1226	Jan	1240-1210
Jul	1220-1210		Volume: 6113

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	296.8-95.5
Spot: 303.5		Dec	297.8-95.5
Mar	299.0-98.5	Mar	300.3-99.0
May	298.5-98.0	May	302.6-01.5
Aug	300.0-99.0		Volume: 1324

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 4

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB.	93.04	136.51	108.87
(+/-)	-2.53	-0.01	-2.64
Eng/Wales:	93.04	137.16	108.84
(+/-)	-2.53	+0.46	-1.84
(%)	+9.0	+19.0	n/c
Scotland:	unq	134.60	109.07
(+/-)		-1.44	-7.21
(%)		+10.0	-23.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	24.95	+0.25
Brent 15 day (Jan)	24.15	+0.25
Brent 15 day (Feb)	23.40	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	25.30	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	24.70	+0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	228 (n/c)	230 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	228 (+2)	229 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	123 (+2)	125 (+2)
Naphtha	232 (+4)	234 (+4)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Dec	229.50-99.75	Mar	209.25 SLR
Jan	227.25-27.50	Apr	200.00 SLR
Feb	219.00-19.25		Vol: 25469

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	24.14 SLR	Apr	22.07 SLR
Feb	23.40 SLR	May	n/a
Mar	22.70 SLR		Vol: 33521

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	95.20	Jan	92.00
Mar	97.20	Mar	93.25
May	98.60	May	94.25
Jul	100.00	Sep	95.00
Sep	93.25	Nov	95.00
Volume: 566		Volume: 135	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	53.5
Apr	63.5	63.5
May	unq	66.5
		Volume: 10

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Dec 82.00-82.50

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Dec 96	1505	1485	1485
Jan 97	1441	1421	1425
Feb 97	1419	1405	1405
Apr 97	1470	1460	1465
Vol: 428 lots		Open interest: 3737	

Index 1445 +5

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2384.0-2386.0	2214.0-2215.0	Vol: 1943975
Lead ($/tonne)	685.50-686.00	691.50-692.00	216250
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1046.5-1047.5	1069.0-1070.0	442375
Tin ($/tonne)	6084.0-6085.0	6110.0-6111.0	15715
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1502.0-1503.0	1532.0-1532.5	1573925
Nickel ($/tonne)	6820.0-6825.0	6890.0-6895.0	65364

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Dom	420	21	33	37	6	12	20
(*431)	460	5	15	18	30	34	42
ASDA	110	11	13	15	0	2	3
(*119)	120	4	6	9	4	6	7
Boots	600	33	50	60	4	11	19
(*627)	650	7	22	31	27	34	43
Br Airways	550	47	63	71	5	11	17
(*591)	600	16	33	41	20	29	30
BP	650	42	55	66	7	17	22
(*692)	700	13	28	40	27	40	46
Br Steel	160	9	14	17	2	5	10
(*165)	180	1	5	8	15	17	22
C & W	420	42	53	60	1	6	12
(*456)	460	14	31	35	13	21	29
CU	650	48	59	59	5	22	26
(*681)	700	14	32	36	28	44	53
ICI	750	45	60	67	5	22	28
(*780)	800	15	31	41	25	47	53
Land Sec	700	39	54	62	2	9	16
(*732)	750	9	23	31	22	29	40
M & S	460	35	40	53	1	6	10
(*491)	500	8	21	29	15	21	27
Nat West	650	56	60	73	2	16	23
(*699)	700	21	34	44	17	30	46
Safeway plc	360	24	36	41	4	10	17
(*378)	390	7	19	25	17	23	32
Sainsbury	360	14	25	29	9	11	18
(*366)	390	2	11	15	24	28	35
Shell	950	56	73	79	4	20	29
(*996)	1000	22	42	49	20	41	49
Smkl Bch	900	32	53	66	24	39	46
(*874)	950	13	32	44	55	68	74
Storehse	300	0	—	—	0	—	—
(*unq)	330	0	—	—	0	—	—
Trafalgar	50	0	—	—	0	—	—
(*unq)	60	0	—	—	0	—	—
Zeneca	1600	69	112	138	29	65	82
(*1631)	1700	28	64	90	84	119	135
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
BAT Ind	460	22	34	40	9	20	30
(*467)	500	5	16	23	33	51	56
Vodafone	240	13	22	27	4	9	13
(*248)	260	4	12	18	14	20	24
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	420	31	37	44	7	13	18
(*446)	460	8	18	24	29	34	38
Ladbroke	200	19	23	25	3	7	9
(*214)	220	7	12	15	12	16	18
Utd Bisc	200	14	17	20	4	10	12
(*205)	220	5	8	11	16	23	24

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
BAA	460	28	41	49	3	9	15
(*482)	500	6	19	27	21	28	33
Thames W	550	29	45	54	3	15	28
(*569)	600	6	14	28	33	39	56
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BTR	220	18	22	25	4	9	11
(*231)	240	7	12	15	13	20	21
Br Aero	1100	59	80	101	19	35	44
(*1127)	1150	32	53	73	42	59	67
Br Telcom	360	42	45	50	2	5	13
(*400)	390	18	26	31	11	16	26
Cadbury	500	24	31	37	11	21	25
(*507)	550	5	10	16	43	53	56
Guinness	430	32	39	42	4	12	16
(*462)	460	10	17	22	23	33	37
GEC	360	15	24	29	10	14	20
(*365)	390	4	11	16	27	32	38
Hanson	110	9	—	—	3	—	—
(*117)	119	5	—	—	7	—	—
LASMO	200	23	27	34	4	6	6
(*219)	220	14	19	25	11	12	14
LucasVarity	220	22	27	33	4	9	13
(*234)	240	10	16	21	13	18	23
Pilkngtn	140	15	20	21	2	4	5
(*151)	160	5	9	11	11	13	15
Prudential	460	50	57	61	4	11	15
(*500)	500	23	31	38	17	28	32
Redland	360	26	37	37	6	14	18
(*376)	390	12	21	22	20	30	34
R-Royce	240	20	25	29	6	10	13
(*259)	260	10	15	19	16	21	23
Tesco	330	23	30	34	6	14	17
(*342)	360	8	15	20	22	29	31
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
unq	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4051)

	3950	4000	4050	4100	4150	4200
Calls						
Dec	114	71	36	13	3	1
Jan	140	101	67	40	20	9
Feb	168	131	98	70	46	29
Mar	181	145	114	86	63	44
Jun	—	208	—	152	—	103
Puts						
Dec	8	16	33	63	111	161
Jan	22	35	53	78	114	161
Feb	41	54	72	96	126	164
Mar	59	74	94	117	146	179
Jun	—	120	—	165	—	218

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Dec	Apr	Jul	Dec	Apr	Jul
Abby Nat	700	13	36	45	11	40	46
(*700)	750	1	16	26	50	73	78
Amstrad	140	13	—	—	0	—	—
(*153)	160	1	—	—	9	—	—
Barclays	1000	39	68	83	3	31	41
(*1035)	1050	10	40	57	23	54	66
Natl Pwr	450	13	33	—	4	16	—
(*459)	500	0	12	20	41	46	59
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Glaxo W	950	33	56	70	18	41	51
(*958)	1000	12	32	47	49	70	81
HSBC	1300	50	80	112	19	59	76
(*1323)	1350	24	61	87	44	86	102
Reuter	650	54	70	81	3	15	21
(*697)	700	20	38	53	19	35	42
Royal & Sun	431	32	43	—	3	14	—
(*457)	460	9	—	—	18	—	—
	Series	Dec	Feb	May	Dec	Feb	May
Blue Circ	360	17	27	33	1	5	14
(*375)	390	1	11	18	15	20	30
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Kingfishr	600	61	71	78	6	16	21
(*648)	650	28	40	49	22	36	42
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Unilever	1400	21	57	69	9	28	43
(*1410)	1450	3	31	43	41	57	74
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Br Gas	200	19	26	20	0	4	9
(*219)	220	4	14	17	5	13	17
Dixons	550	23	42	54	3	17	24
(*568)	600	2	21	30	32	43	51
EMI Group	1350	40	90	112	8	41	55
(*1379)	1400	13	54	85	32	69	79
Tarmac	90	3	7	9	1	4	5
(*91)	100	0	3	5	9	10	12
Hillsdwn	190	7	13	15	1	5	10
(*189)	200	0	4	6	15	10	23
Lonrho	120	7	60	13	1	4	6
(*120)	130	1	5	9	5	9	11
Sears	90	5	—	—	1	—	—
(*94)	100	2	—	—	6	—	—
Thorn EMI	1600	47	—	—	6	—	—
(*1640)	1700	4	—	—	61	—	—
Tomkins	240	12	20	25	1	7	9
(*251)	260	2	10	15	10	17	19
Lloyds TSB	390	30	39	45	0	9	14
(*419)	420	6	20	28	7	23	28
Scot Pwr	323	23	29	—	0	7	—
(*345)	353	3	12	—	9	21	—

December 5, 1996 Tot: 34356 Call: 20721 Put: 13635 FTSE Call: 6735 Put: 4309
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FTSE 100 Previous open interest: 67622	Dec 96 Mar 97	4055.0 4076.5	4087.0 4108.0	4048.5 4068.0	4054.0 4073.5	16857 3940
FTSE 250 Previous open interest: 5350	Dec 96 Mar 97				4445.0 4495.0	0 0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 512427	Dec 96 Mar 97 Jun 97	93.55 93.27 92.99	93.64 93.46 93.19	93.54 93.27 92.98	93.61 93.38 93.08	22008 53874 52940
Three Mth Euro Yen	Mar 97 Jun 97	99.43 99.33	99.45 99.33	99.43 99.32	99.45 99.33	2111 208
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1120848	Dec 96 Mar 97	96.79 96.86	96.82 96.89	96.75 96.82	96.76 96.83	39525 42456
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 168605	Dec 96 Mar 97	111-03 110-16	111-20 111-02	110-09 109-19	110-13 109-24	12433 88355
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 96 Mar 97	126.81 126.36	126.86 126.46	126.59 126.16	126.60 126.20	494 2070
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 277764	Dec 96 Mar 97	102.34 101.38	102.53 101.70	102.17 100.50	102.53 100.70	24911 254328
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 30795	Dec 96 Mar 97	95.85 95.91	95.87 95.95	95.84 95.89	95.84 95.90	921 907
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 58957	Dec 96 Mar 97	97.89 97.93	97.89 97.98	97.80 97.80	97.82 97.87	3420 9381
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 86062	Mar 97 Jun 97	128.55	129.37	128.24	128.61 128.21	58800 0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6 Low 5½ Week fixed: 5¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅛; 3 mth 6⅛. Sell: 2 mth 6; 3 mth: 6⅛.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6-5⅞	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Interbank:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛

Overnight: open 5⅞, close 6.

Local Authority Deps:	6	n/a	6⅛	6¼	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.47	n/a	5.40	5.43	5.59
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-4⅞	5⅜-5¼	5½-5⅜	5⅝-5½	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-3	3⅛-3	3⅛-3	3⅛-2⅞
French Franc:	3⅛-3	3⅛-3	3⅛-3	3⅛-3	3⅛-2⅞
Swiss Franc:	2-1⅞	2⅛-2	2⅛-2	2⅛-2	2-1
Yen:	½-⅜	½-⅜	½-⅜	½-⅜	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $369.10-369.40 Close: $369.75-370.25 High: $370.45-370.95
Low: $367.25-367.75 AM: $368.30 PM: $369.00

Krugerrand: $369.50-372.50 (£226.75-228.75)

Platinum: $373.00 (£230.25) Silver: $4.82 (£2.955) Palladium: $116.00 (£71.60)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for December 5	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.8319-2.8755	2.8365-2.8396	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Brussels	52.020-52.830	52.112-52.201	17-12pr	46-40pr
Copenhagen	9.6680-9.8110	9.6880-9.6972	2⅛-1⅞pr	7⅛-6⅛pr
Dublin	0.9933-0.9987	0.9945-0.9963	5-1pr	17-11pr
Frankfurt	2.5237-2.5622	2.5237-2.5435	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-1⅞pr
Lisbon	254.81-258.57	255.48-255.80	⅛-⅛ds	⅛-⅛ds
Madrid	212.58-215.55	212.64-212.82	6-15ds	1-15ds
Milan	2485.5-2516.7	2493.3-2496.8	21-37ds	39-60ds
Montreal	2.2004-2.2266	2.2104-2.2128	0.62-0.57pr	1.26-1.17pr
New York	1.6216-1.6420	1.6270-1.6280	0.925-0.725pr	0.373-0.342pr
Oslo	10.562-10.680	10.580-10.592	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Paris	8.5300-8.6580	8.5437-8.5522	2⅛-1⅞pr	6⅛-6⅛pr
Stockholm	11.090-11.076	11.075-11.096	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Tokyo	182.08-184.70	183.03-183.28	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Vienna	17.760-18.036	17.793-17.811	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.1502-2.1658	2.1426-2.1455	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2517-1.2525
Austria	10.94-10.95
Belgium (Com)	32.04-32.09
Canada	1.3576-1.3586
Denmark	5.9640-5.9660
France	5.2565-5.2585
Germany	1.5560-1.5565
Hong Kong	7.7315-7.7325
Ireland	1.6335-1.6355
Italy	1531.5-1532.5
Japan	112.61-112.71
Malaysia	2.5208-2.5215
Netherlands	1.7448-1.7453
Norway	6.5085-6.5105
Portugal	157.11-157.21
Singapore	1.4010-1.4020
Spain	130.84-130.89
Sweden	6.8112-6.8187
Switzerland	1.3172-1.3182

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6237-1.6264
Australia dollar	2.0325-2.0354
Bahrain dinar	0.6140-0.6260
Brazil real*	1.6857-1.6901
China yuan	13.481-13.781
Cyprus pound	0.7680-0.7780
Finland markka	7.5950-7.7110
Greece drachma	399.0-406.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.5549-12.5666
India rupee	58.42-59.38
Indonesia rupiah	3829.0-3897.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4885-0.4985
Malaysia ringgit	4.0934-4.0970
New Zealand dollar	2.3089-2.3127
Pakistan rupee	65.45 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9275-6.0515
Singapore dollar	2.2778-2.2804
S Africa rand (com)	7.6330-7.7350
U A E dirham	5.9775-6.1015

Barclays Bank GTS * *Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	300	Lloyds TSB	5,200
ASDA Gp	21,500	LucasVarity	6,500
Abbey Ntl	4,200	Marks Spr	5,800
Allied Dom	3,000	NatWst Bk	4,800
Argos	170	Nat Grid	5,300
AB Foods	182	Nat Power	5,400
BAA	1,900	Next	731
BAT Inds	10,900	Orange	3,500
BOC	2,100	P & O	1,900
BP	7,900	Pearson	1,600
BSkyB	2,500	Pilkington	4,100
BTR	14,400	PowerGen	37,400
BT	27,300	Prudential	8,100
Bk of Scot	2,500	RMC	333
Barclays	1,800	RTZ	3,700
Bass	2,000	Railtrack	2,800
Blue Circle	1,500	Rank Group	3,500
Boots	2,600	Reckitt Col	1,300
BAe	1,200	Redland	1,900
BA	1,400	Reed Intl	12,000
Brit Gas	21,000	Rentokil Inl	3,600
Brit Steel	5,700	Reuters	7,600
Burmah Cstl	226	Rolls Royce	1,000
Burton	2,200	Royal & Sun	7,600
Cable Wire	9,800	Royal Bk Sct	3,000
Cadbury	1,500	Safeway	713
Carlton Cms	3,300	Sainsbury	1,500
Cm Union	5,900	Schroders	146
Courtaulds	863	Scot & New	1,100
Dixons	306	Scot Power	4,200
EMI	511	Svrn Trent	1,400
Enterpr Oil	1,700	Shell Trans	3,900
GKN	806	Siebe	2,000
GRE	5,100	SmKl Bch	3,100
GUS	9,100	Smith Nph	5,500
Gen Acc	6,900	Smiths Inds	567
Gen Elec	3,900	Std Chartd	1,600
Glaxo Well	7,600	TI Gp	2,600
Granada	1,900	Tate & Lyle	1,700
Grand Met	12,200	Tesco	5,100
Guinness	3,600	Thames W	1,500
HSBC	1,500	Tomkins	6,700
Hanson	27,500	Unilever	3,000
ICI	2,200	Utd Utilities	2,000
Imp Tob	2,500	Utd News	1,400
Kingfisher	2,400	Vodafone	7,600
LASMO	1,500	Whitbread	603
Ladbroke	15,700	Wlms Hld	1,400
Land Secs	2,700	Wolseley	2,100
Legal & Gn	8,100	Zeneca	1,500

[illegible]

	Dec 5 midday	Dec 4 close
AMP Inc	38	38
AMR Corp	91	92
ASA	37	37
AT & T	38	38
Abbott Labs	53	53
Advanced Micro	23	24
Aetna Life	72	72
Ahmanson (HF)	31	31
Air Prod & Chem	66	69
AirTouch Comm	26	26
Alberto-Culver B	48	48
Albertson's	35	35
Alcan Aluminum	34	34
Alco Standard	50	50
Allied Signal	70	69
Alum Co of Am	62	62
Amax Gold Inc	6	6
Amerada Hess	59	59
Amer Brands	48	48
Amer El Power	40	40
Amer Express	51	51
Amer Genl Corp	40	40
Amer Home Pr	62	63
Amer Intl	111	111
Amer Stores	40	40
Amer Standard	38	38
Ameritech	58	58
Amoco	77	77
Anheuser-Busch	41	42
Apple Computer	25	25
Archer Daniels	20	21
Armco	4	4
Armstrng Wrld	74	74
Asarco	26	26
Atl Richfield	141	141
Auto Data Pro	41	41
Avery Dennison	69	69
Avon Products	53	54
Baker Hughes	37	36
Baltim Gas & El	27	27
Banc One	45	45
BankAmerica	97	99
Bank of NY	34	34
Bankers Tr NY	84	85
Barnett Banks	40	41
Bausch & Lomb	35	36
Baxter Intl	41	41
Becton Dicknsn	42	41
Bell Atlantic	60	61
Bell Industries	20	20
BellSouth	39	39
Black & Decker	37	37
Block (H&R)	30	29
Boeing	97	97
Boise Cascade	32	32
Bristol Myrs Sq	112	113
Browning Ferris	26	27
Brunswick	25	25
Burlington Nthn	88	89
CMS Energy Corp	32	33
CNA Financial	104	104
CPC Intl	79	81
CSX	47	46
Campbell Soup	80	81
Can Pacific	20	20
Carolina Pwr	36	36
Caterpillar	76	77
Central & SW	26	26
Champion Intl	43	43
Chase Manhat	89	90
Chevron Corp	65	65
Chrysler	35	35
Chubb Corp	53	53
Cigna Corp	137	136
Citicorp	103	105
Clorox	99	100
Coastal Corp	48	48
Coca Cola	48	49
Coca Cola Ent	42	42
Colgate-Palmolive	90	90
Columbia Gas	65	64
ColumbiaHCA	40	41
Compaq Comp	83	81
Comp Ass Intl	62	63
Conagra	50	51
Conrail	96	96
Cons Edison	29	29
Cons Nat Gas	55	58
Cooper Inds	40	40
Corestates	50	51
Corning Inc	41	41
Crown Cork	52	52
Dana Corp	30	30
Dayton Hudson	39	39
Deere	41	42
Delta Air Lines	75	79
Deluxe Corp	31	31
Digital Equip	40	40
Dillard Dept St	31	31
Disney (Walt)	71	71
Dominion Res	37	37
Donnelley (RR)	32	32
Dover Corp	52	52
Dow Chemical	82	82
Dow Jones	34	34
Dresser	32	31
Duke Power	44	45
Dun & Brdstreet	22	22
Du Pont	96	96
Eastman Chem	57	58

	Dec 5 midday	Dec 4 close
Eastman Kodak	80	80
Eaton Corp	66	68
Edison Intl	19	20
Elect Data Sys	47	47
Emerson Elec	96	96
Engelhard Corp	19	19
Enron Corp	45	45
Entergy	27	27
Ethyl Corp	9	8
Exxon	94	94
FMC Corp	75	75
FPL Group	46	46
Federal Express	43	43
Fed Nat Mtge	38	38
First Bk Sys	70	70
First Union Rly	10	10
Fleet Finl Grp	53	53
Fluor Corp	66	66
Ford Motor	33	32
GTE Corp	44	44
Gannett	76	76
Gap Inc Del	32	32
Gencorp	18	18
Gen Dynamics	71	71
Gen Electric	99	99
Gen Mills	63	63
Gen Motors	59	58
Gen Reinsurance	163	163
Gen Signal	42	42
Genuine Parts	44	45
Georgia Pac	72	72
Gillette	70	70
Glaxo Welle ADR	31	31
Goodrich (BF)	42	43
Goodyear Tire	48	48
Grt Atl Pac Tea	31	31
Great Wstn Fin	29	30
Halliburton	60	59
Harcourt General	54	54
Heinz (HJ)	36	36
Hercules	48	48
Hershey Foods	45	47
Hewlett Packard	56	56
Hilton Hotels	28	29
Home Depot	51	52
Homestake Mng	15	15
Honeywell	66	66
Household Intl	91	91
Houston Inds	21	21
Humana	20	20
ITT Corp	44	45
Illinois Tool	82	81
Illinova	27	27
INCO	33	34
Ingersoll Rand	45	46
Inland Steel	18	18
Intel Corp	127	129
IBM	160	161
Intl Flav & Fr	45	45
Intl Paper	41	41
James River Va	33	33
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	51	52
Kellogg	65	65
Kerr-McGee	71	70
Kimberly-Clark	94	94
Kmart	11	11
Knight-Ridder	40	40
Lilly (Eli)	73	74
Limited Inc	18	18
Lincoln Nat	51	51
Litton	46	46
Liz Claiborne	41	41
Lockheed Martin	90	89
Louisiana Pac	22	22
MCI Comm	31	31
Marriott Int	56	55
Marsh & McLnn	111	111
Masco Corp	35	36
May Dept St	49	49
Maytag Corp	19	19
McDonalds	46	46
McDonnell D	53	52
McGraw Hill	43	43
Mead Corp	58	58
Medtronic	62	62
Mellon Bk	70	70
Merck Inc	79	80
Merrill Lynch	77	79
Microsoft	154	153
Minnesota Mine	82	82
Mobil Corp	121	122
Monsanto	40	39
Morgan (JP)	93	93
Motorola Inc	54	54
Natl Semi	25	25
Natl Service Ind	34	34
Navistar Inc	9	9
NY Times A	38	37
Newmont Mng	46	46
Niag Mohawk	9	9
Nike B	57	57
NL Industries	10	10
Noram Energy	15	15
Nordstrom	43	43
Norfolk Sthrn	88	88
Nthn State Pwr	47	47
Norwest Corp	43	44
Nynex Corp	45	46
Occidental Pet	24	23
Ohio Edison	22	22

	Dec 5 midday	Dec 4 close
Oracle	46	48
Oryx Energy Co	21	20
Overseas Ship	17	17
Owens Corning	41	41
PHH Corp	44	43
PPG Industries	60	60
PNC Bank	38	38
PP&L Res	23	23
Paccar Inc	68	67
Pacificorp	20	20
Pac Enterprises	30	30
Pac Gas & Elect	24	24
Pac Telesis	36	36
Pall Corp	25	25
Parker Hannifin	41	40
Penn Energy	25	25
Penney (JC)	52	53
Pennzoil	56	56
Pepsico	29	29
Pfizer	83	83
Pharm & Upjhn	39	39
Phelps Dodge	69	70
Philip Morris	106	105
Phillips Pet	44	44
Pitney Bowes	56	57
Polaroid	41	41
PriceCostco	23	23
Procter & Gmbl	102	104
Providian	53	54
Pub Serv E & G	29	29
Quaker Oats	36	36
Ralston Purina	73	75
Raychem Corp	83	83
Raytheon	49	49
Reebok Intl	41	41
Reynolds Metals	57	57
Rockwell Intl	62	62
Rohm & Haas	79	80
Royal Dutch	164	163
Rubbermaid	23	24
SBC Comms	51	51
Safeco Corp	40	40
St Paul's Cos	58	58
Salomon Inc	45	45
Sara Lee Corp	37	37
Schering Plough	67	67
Schlumberger	104	102
Seagram	40	40
Sears Roebuck	49	49
Shell Trans	97	96
Sherwin Wllms	55	55
Skyline Corp	26	26
Snap-On-Tools	36	36
Southern Co	22	23
Sprint Corp	39	39
Stanley Works	29	29
Sun Company	24	24
Sun Microsys	59	58
Suntrust	48	49
Supervalu	29	29
Sysco Corp	33	33
TRW Inc	96	95
TCC Inds	1	1
Tandem Comp	14	14
Tandy Corp	41	42
Temple Inland	54	54
Tenneco	51	51
Texaco	99	99
Texas Inst	64	65
Texas Utilities	40	40
Textron	93	93
Time Warner	40	40
Times-Mirror A	51	51
Timken	45	45
Torchmark	49	50
Toys R Us	33	34
Transamerica	79	79
Travelers	43	43
Tribune	83	83
Tyco Int	54	53
UST Inc	32	32
UAL	60	59
US Inds	32	32
US West Comm	31	31
USX Marathon	24	25
Unicom	27	26
Unilever NV	167	168
Union Camp	50	50
Union Carbide	44	44
Union Pacific	57	58
Unisys Corp	7	7
USAIR Group	25	25
USF&G Corp	19	19
US Life	30	30
United Tech	134	134
Unocal Corp	41	41
VF Corp	68	69
WMX Tech	35	35
Wal-Mart Stores	25	25
Warner-Lambert	71	70
Wells Fargo	274	275
Westinghouse El	18	18
Weyerhaeuser	46	47
Whirlpool	46	49
Whitman	23	23
Winn Dixie	33	33
Woolworth	23	24
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	56	55
Xerox	50	49
Yellow Corp	14	14

هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Swipe me, an identity crisis

AN IDENTITY crisis has broken out at the Registrar of Friendly Societies since the organisation saw fit to invest in a second-hand batch of security swipe cards, purchased from foreign parts.

Employees have been spotted recently wandering around the fortress on Great Marlborough Street, wearing tags around their neck sporting the logo of the Royal Jockey Club of Hong Kong, *among others*. I am told that it is a cost-saving exercise, bearing in mind that the Registrar is moving in the *middle* of next month to Victory House, in Kingsway.

The official line: "It's taxpayers money that we're saving."

£25 a brick

A SWEETENER for anyone unable to afford the seven-figure sum to have Sunderland Football Club's new stadium named after them. For a mere £25, soccer fans can have their name inscribed into one of the many bricks being used to build a *"Wall of Fame" at the* stadium. The Sunderland club's new home will cost £15 million to construct.

Ho, ho, ho

BARE-FACED Richard Branson took his revenge at Virgin's Christmas bash in the King's Road this week. Pinned to a chair in the middle of the party was Rowan Gormley, the formerly hirsute managing director of Virgin Direct. Armed with razors, his guests took it in turn to take both the beard and a little of the smile off Gormley's face. Having had the offending facial hair since the age of 17, the cold shave couldn't have *been comfortable. Fortunately* for Branson, who ended up coated in shaving cream, an obliging bottle blonde was by his side to wipe it clean away.

Rowan Gormley lost his beard at Branson's bash

Socking it

SOCKS and aristocracy plan to make a powerful combination when Pex becomes London's first listed *plc to quote its shares* from next month on the new Euro market in Brussels. Pex, which is the largest manufacturer of children's socks and tights in the UK, is run by Andrea Cattaneo Della Volta, Marquess of Belforte, and a descendant of the tenth-century Doge of Genoa.

Warming

BEARING in *mind* the SFO's improving success rate, this year's Christmas card from the crime squad leaves me with a warm glow. It is illustrated with the score of "Silent Night" and decorated in holly and ribbons. A footnote on the back *tells recipients*: "This card supports the work of the Federation of Prisoners Families Support Groups & NSPCC."

PETER Stringfellow has plumped for his old chum Sir Clive "C5" Sinclair to launch his nightclub on the Internet. In keeping with the festive season, old snakehips and Sir Clive will be accompanied by 75 "gorgeous angels".

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW ANATOLE KALETSKY

Will a stability pact simply repeat the folly of Versailles?

German demands threaten to put a huge burden on the citizens of those countries in a single currency

There are times when unpleasant memories are worth reviving, even if they make our friends suspicious about our motives. Europe is approaching a fateful moment. The leaders of the European Union, meeting on Thursday at the *Dublin* summit, are entering the final stages of negotiation on Germany's demand for a "stability pact". This would punish countries that pursued economic policies deemed imprudent, according to the criteria laid out in the Maastricht treaty. If the 15 leaders reach an agreement on anything like the terms now being considered they will be setting Europe on a path that has been trodden in this century only once before.

There is one precedent for a multinational authority to reach over the heads of elected European countries and levy fines directly on their citizens for alleged national defalts. This precedent is the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, which laid down a schedule of reparations to punish Germany for waging war against the rest of Europe. The "reparations question" dominated European diplomacy and economics throughout the inter-war years, as well as poisoning the internal politics of Germany and *France. There are many opinions about* whether reparations played a role in the rise of Hitler, in the hyper-inflation that destroyed the Weimar Republic, or in the great depression of the 1930s. But on one point virtually *all* historians are agreed; the French insistence that Germany must be punished by paying reparations was a big mistake.

The question *now* is whether Europe might soon commit another such historic *mistake*. Even to an economist it is *hard* to grasp the political significance of the tedious percentages and decimal points that comprise the stability pact proposal. Members of the single currency will be fined 0.2 per cent of GDP, plus 0.1 per cent of GDP for every point by which the deficit exceeds the Maastricht reference level of 3 per cent. The only way to make sense of such abstractions is to put the figures into some kind of historical context. This can be done by asking two concrete questions.

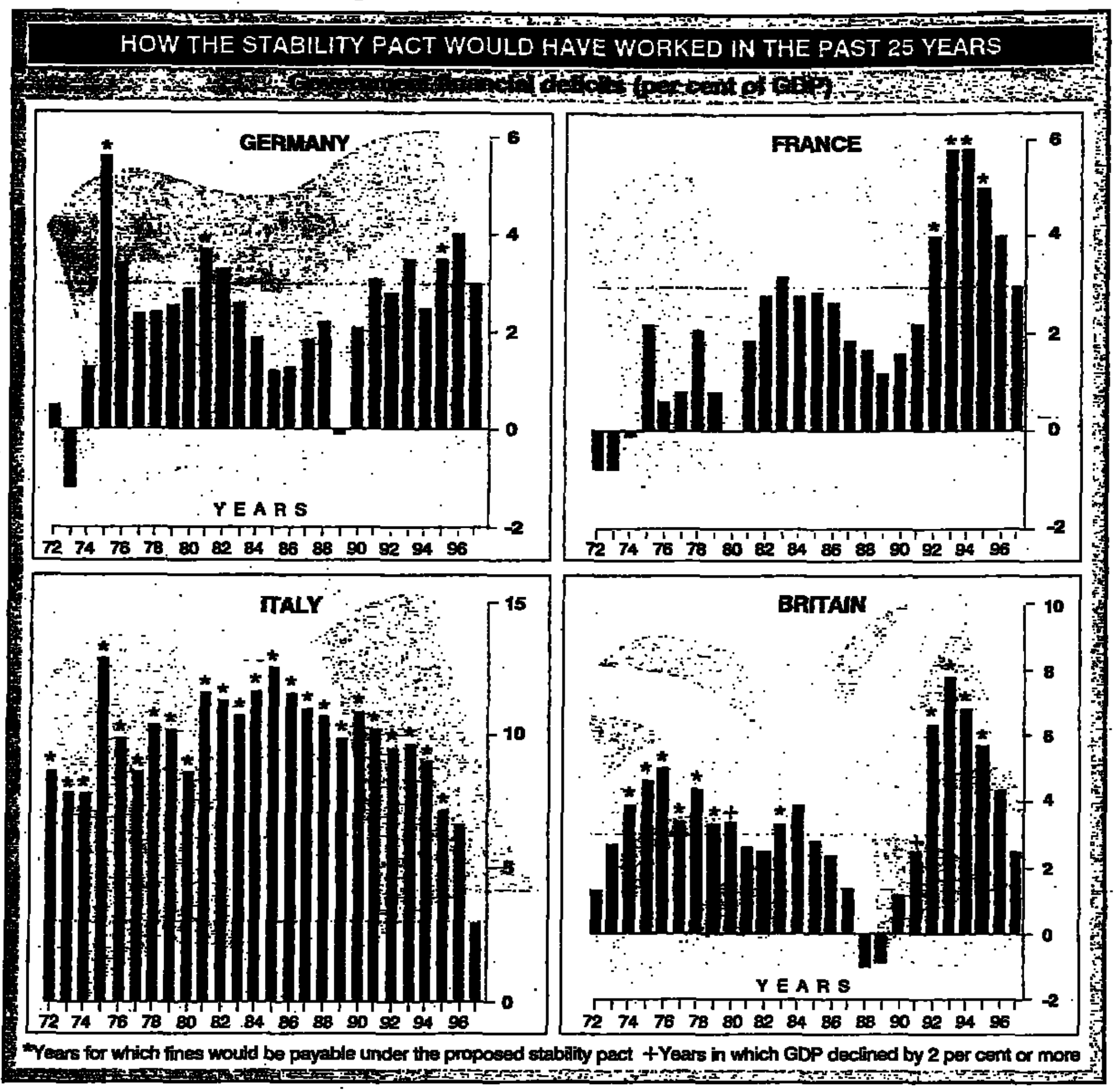
How much the main European countries would have paid in fines if the proposed stability pact had been in force over the past 25 years? And how would these potential exactions compare with *the reparations paid by Germany after* the First World War?

To answer the first question I applied the stability pact formula to the budgetary statistics for Germany, France, Italy and Britain from 1972 to 1996. It makes surprisingly little diffence whether we apply the German version of the stability pact or the slightly "softer" version backed by other governments. Italy, for example, would have paid maximum fines every year since 1972 under the German formula. Under the "soft" formula it would have paid exactly the same fines in 24 out of the last 25 years.

The results of applying the "softer" formula to OECD figures for the past 25 years are illustrated in the charts. Germany would have been fined only once. The others would all have paid much larger fines: a cumulative 1.9 per cent of GDP for France; 4 per cent of GDP for Britain and 12 per cent of GDP for Italy. Converting these figures into dollars, the fines would have totalled $25 billion for France, $41 billion for Britain and $122 billion for Italy.

HOW THE STABILITY PACT WOULD HAVE WORKED IN THE PAST 25 YEARS

Government financial deficits (per cent of GDP)



*Years for which fines would be payable under the proposed stability pact +Years in which GDP declined by 2 per cent or more

How do we compare these figures to German reparations? There are two issues: first, to establish how much Germany paid and, secondly, to convert this into present-day money. Germany's total payments are still a matter of dispute among historians, partly because some of the reparations were paid in kind (for example through the property expropriated during the French occupation of the Ruhr), and partly because German governments received large loans from America to help to make their payments. According to the Allied Reparations Commission, Germany's total payments were around 20 billion gold marks, or $5 billion by the time Hitler repudiated all further obligations in 1933. *German official* estimates came to 36 billion gold marks (or $8.6 billion). Against these sums many au*thorities have offset* Germany's foreign borrowings, most of which were never repaid. Since Germany's borrowings during the reparations period have been estimated at 33 billion gold marks, net payments may have come to as little as 3 billion gold marks, or $714 million.

> It is optimistic to assume the inherent instability of national budgets will be overcome by political 'will'

These sums can be converted into today's money in several ways. The most obvious is simply to adjust for inflation. Since the value of the mark has repeatedly been wiped out by hyperinflation, this can only be done by looking at prices in the two leading countries with a history of price stability: America and Britain. American prices rose ninefold between 1928 and 1996, according to official figures collected by HSBC Markets.

Using this multiplier, the present-day value of Germany's total reparations payments would be $45 billion to $77 billion. This is double the $25 billion that France would have paid under the stability pact. But most of Germany's reparations payments were made with borrowed money, which the country never repaid. The stability pact, by contrast, would specifically prevent governments borrowing to pay their fines.

Taking this factor into account, the present-day value of Germany's 3 billion gold marks in *net* reparations payments would be only $6.3 billion. That is roughly equivalent to the *annual* fines that France would have paid in each of the past three years.

Another way of adjusting for inflation, which takes some account of the fact that asset values have risen much faster than consumer prices, reflecting the general rise of pro*ductivity and world*wide wealth, is to consider the value of reparations in terms of gold. This was how *they* were *originally* set by the Allies. Germany's gross payments were between 20 and 36 billion gold marks, as mentioned above. A gold mark was defined as 6.146 grains of 900 fine gold, which meant that an ounce of pure gold was worth 78 gold marks. Germany's gross payments were equivalent, therefore, to between 256 and 461 million ounces of gold — worth $95 billion to $170 billion at today's gold price. Net reparations, after deducting foreign borrowings, were equivalent to 38 million ounces of gold, now worth $14 billion.

In terms of gold, therefore, Germany's gross reparations were considerably higher than the potential penalties for France and Britain under the stability pact, but very close to Italy's £122 billion liabilities if it reverted to its historical economic performance (or, more accurately, if it continued the trends of the past 25 years).

However, the real burden of Germany's resource transfers to the Allies was reflected in the net reparations, worth only $14 billion in terms of gold. This was just half of the $25 billion that France would have had to pay under the stability pact.

In sum, the stability pact, even in the more lenient form supported by non-German governments, threatens to put a huge burden on the citizens of France, Italy and other single-currency countries, a burden fully comparable with the one imposed on Germany by France after the First World War.

Apologists for monetary union will argue, of course, that history is irrelevant to the single currency's future performance. Governments that join EMU will make greater efforts to control their finances specifically to *avoid the stability pact fines. This may* happen. It may also could be wishful thinking. Virtually all economists agree that controlling deficits is harder, not easier, in a single-currency zone: gov*ernments with no control over domestic* interest rates or exchange rates have no way of compensating for shifts in demand. Indeed, it is no coincidence that all six of the years when France had an "excessive deficit" *have* occurred during the post-1987 period when the franc was tied to the mark. Britain, too, has suffered its biggest deficits during the ERM period and immediately afterwards. *Simply to assume that the* inherent instability of national budgets will be overcome by political "will" after 1999 is optimistic, to put it mildly. To risk reviving the mutual suspicions among the governments of *Europe* at each other's throats on the basis of such breezy assumptions borders on madness.

Britain has the right to veto the stability pact, even if it chooses to opt out of EMU. But will John Major have the courage to use this power? Or will he simply wash his hands and allow the others to carry on with their folly — just as *Lloyd George* did when the French insisted on the madness of reparations at Versailles?

Cash is king in today's gas market

Carl Mortished looks beyond the deal struck on "take-or-pay" contracts

When the price of a commodity is low, the strongest player is the one with deep pockets. Sadly for British Gas (BG), the counter-parties in its negotiations over the notorious "take-or-pay" contracts are big cash-rich oil companies.

Unlike BG, they are not worried about paying dividends or finding the funds to invest in new projects. Companies such as Shell and BP have plenty of money because of high oil prices and lower costs.

BG was trumpeting the deal with BP yesterday as an excellent investment, but remained coy about the details. It has spent a year chasing a group of suppliers waving valid contracts, all of which are different in price, volume and timescale.

Yesterday, Richard Giordano, chairman of BG, suggested that the deal over 16 billion therms of gas might be a benchmark. It will be lucky if it proves to be so. BG admitted yesterday that, together, the BP and its own internal contracts represented only 10 per cent of the total. To recap, BG's take-or-pay problem stems from three factors: *the dash for* North Sea gas in the early 1990s when it signed up huge volumes with producers under long-term take-or-pay contracts in anticipation of rapid growth. All these contracts differ, but operate on the principle that the buyer (BG) must pay for the gas at an agreed price whether or not it takes delivery.

Unfortunately BG then suffered a sharp decline in market share as the Government opened up the commercial and industrial sectors to free competition. Competitors, including the main oil companies rushed to sign up customers, offering cheap gas. Finally a succession of warm winters and a surge in production caused the spot price of gas to collapse, leaving competitors able to buy gas for immediate delivery at half *the 20p per therm* average price BG was paying under its long-term take-or-pay contracts.

BG has been forced to pay *for expensive gas it has been* leaving in the ground. Yesterday's deal with BP goes some way to redress the balance, but only a little. BP took about 1.8 billion therms of unwanted gas back from the utility. That will not be a headache for the oil company; the spot price after the recent cold weather has been running at 20p per therm. BP is one of BG's cheaper suppliers and the gas utility is paying £293 billion to reduce the price a therm by about 2p to 14p.

Net of tax the cost to BG is about £200 million, which suggests that resolving the total problem might cost £2 billion. Moreover, were BG to reduce all its expensive contracts (those at 20p per therm or more) the utility would be facing a cost nearer £3 billion.

But in the smoke-filled rooms where BG thrashes out such deals, the devil is in the detail. Shell, BP and Esso have no reason to skin this particular cat to the bone. It is, after all, their biggest customer. They are playing a much longer game, one that looks beyond Britain to the Continent.

> “The devil is in the detail in such matters”

In a few years, gas will be flowing through the interconnector to The Netherlands and Germany, where prices are much higher and the oil com*panies* desperately want to secure market share. They will also be keenly aware that prices go up as well as down and that the UK's gas bubble will soon deflate, if it does not burst.

To seize the opportunities, the oil majors need ample supplies of cheap gas to sell. Therefore future deals will focus on Morecambe Bay, Britain's biggest gasfield, owned by Centrica, the renamed trading company. With £8 billion in the bank, Shell is unlikely to want cash, but with an eye to the future might like a piece of Morecambe Bay, a key part of the UK gas jigsaw puzzle. Morecambe operates as a "swing producer" ironing out peaks of gas demand and, therefore, has strategic importance to the gas market in Britain.

Even BP, which yesterday was waving *an IOU worth* £293 million, could become a buyer. Due to be paid next year, a cash-strapped Centrica might be willing to *swap a promise to pay for* assets underground. In today's gas market, cash is definitely king.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Where did we engineers go wrong in figuring out the worth of our widgets?

From the President of the Institution of Structural Engineers

Sir, The engaging charm with which Nick Land, senior partner of Ernst & Young, explained away the average salaries of his 412 partners over the past four or five years — £200,000 per annum and rising — is to be admired.

I also accept that by comparison with at least one of his contemporaries *in another* major accounting firm his own salary of £425,000 plus is definitely "pauperish" — at that rate he will never, as he says, become a multi-millionaire. Good Luck to them all, I say. If clients will pay the fees and perceive value for their money, then accountants, lawyers and *similar professions* should be paid these rewards for their efforts in safeguarding client wealth and in keeping them clear of the law.

But the real sting was for me in the tail of your article (Business News, December 4), when Nick so honestly admit*ted that "I'd rather* have made widgets. I could definitely have been running some miserable factory somewhere" — and a good job you'd have made of it too, Nick! They would almost certainly have been good widgets and I'm sure the factory would have been at least a little less *miserable for your presence.*

Of course, Nick and his fellow directors would have almost certainly had a higher director/employee ratio to deal with (Ernst & Young 1:16, industry 1:60) and salaries would have been less (average chartered engineer about £35,000), but it would have been "jolly good fun", while actually creating the wealth that industry provides to keep all those accountants employed. Nick, where did all we engineers go wrong by believing that what we made and constructed for the benefit of society at large would be valued? Or have I again confused value and worth with remuneration?

Anyway, enough of this; back to the lathes and mixers or there'll be no widgets — then there really will be hell to pay. What will our accountants say?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN CLANCY,
President, Institute of Structural Engineers,
11 Upper Belgrave Street,
SW1.

Windfall tax and utility companies

From Mr Stephen L. Phillips

Sir, Pennington (November 15) criticises the utility companies for distributing cash ahead of a possible new Labour new windfall tax. But surely it is their elementary duty to put as much as possible of their shareholders' assets out of the way of uncompensated renationalisation?

I criticise them for acting so on such a modest scale. They should be distributing up to the limit of their borrowing capacity *then replacing* 99 per cent of share capital with debt instruments, with a charge on their company's assets. If a windfall tax then bankrupts a utility, the shareholders will be protected and the Government that has caused the problem can be left to pick up the pieces.

If one of the utilities had an overseas investment in a country likely to get a government intending to expropriate its assets, would Pennington expect the company to take all possible steps to get assets out of that country? I suspect he would write scathingly of their incompetence *if they did not.*

New Labour justifies its tax, which Pennington describes as "unethical", by saying that utility shareholders have done too well from the terms of their deal with the Government. Does it intend to use some of the proceeds to compensate those who have had the opposite experience — say with British Gas, or Eurotunnel?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN L. PHILLIPS
(Chairman), Hygicare,
Whitegate Industrial Estate,
Wrexham, Clwyd.

Suitable for the Goldfish Club

From Mr George May

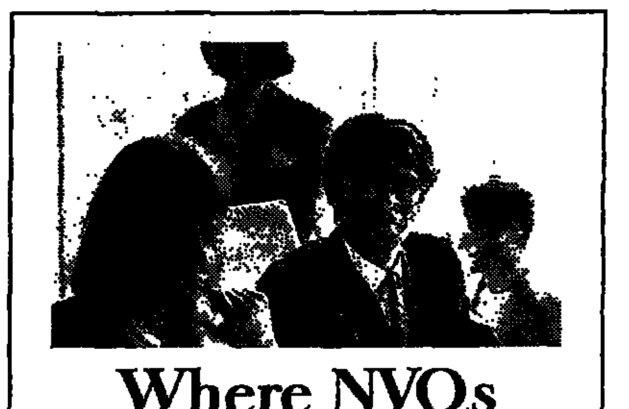
Sir, No doubt Annabel Geddes's gardener "surviving on social security benefits" would appreciate the odd crust from the Manor table. He may even have other sources from which a moiety could be derived.

My own part-time gardner (hard-working and much admired) had been with me for several months before announcing that we shared the same broker. This he had gleaned from a discarded envelope. *He would certainly be* suitable for the Goldfish Club.

The gasman may not be the piper, but may well know who can pay.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE MAY,
Strathyre,
63 Welbeck Road,
Bolsover,
Derbyshire.

Letters to *The Times* Business section can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.



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هكذا في الأصل

Windfall for directors after Gradus takeover

Symonds: founder of Gradus

By Keith Rodgers

TWO directors of Gradus Group, the flooring accessories and carpet company, stand to make almost £20 million in cash and shares after a £32.9 million agreed takeover by Headlam, the acquisitive floorcoverings and fabrics distributor.

Headlam's offer values each Gradus share at 164p, compared with Wednesday's closing price of 125½p.

Gradus, which reported disappointing results for the first six months of the year, has seen its share price stay relatively flat since it floated at 122p in June 1995. Ken Symonds, 68, who founded Gradus with a £100 investment 30 years ago, stands to receive £5 million in cash and £10 million Headlam shares from the deal.

Lewis McDermott, who teamed up with Mr Symonds in 1986, will receive about £4.6 million for his stake, a third of it in cash. The two directors control almost 60 per cent of the share capital and have given binding undertakings to accept the offer, effectively ruling out intervention by a third party.

Headlam, which has made two Dutch and two UK acquisitions this year, said that the takeover would enable it to make a strong push into the contract carpets market, where it has only a small presence. It also gains control of Gradus's larger flooring accessories division.

The company said that the acquisition would immediately enhance earnings. Its gearing is expected to increase to 43 per cent.

The move was broadly well received, although one analyst expressed some disappointment that the core strategic factor in the takeover, the contract carpets division, represented only a third of the total business.

Headlam is offering 39 new shares and £55.21 in cash, with a loan note alternative, for every 100 Gradus shares. Gradus shareholders will also receive a second interim dividend for the year to December 31 of 4p per share, payable on January 6, 1997, making a total dividend of 5.8p per share (5.4p).

In a trading statement, Headlam said that it had enjoyed record trading levels during the second half and intended to recommend a final 1996 dividend of 4.35p per share, making a 21 per cent increase in the total dividend to 5.8p.

Mr McDermott, Mr Symonds and a third director sold more than three million shares, worth nearly £4 million, when Gradus was floated.

GUS eyes Freemans but fears a referral

By Sarah Cunningham

LORD WOLFSON of Sunningdale confirmed yesterday that Great Universal Stores, the giant mail order group that he chairs, is interested in buying the Freemans catalogue business, but he fears a bid would run into monopoly objections.

Lord Wolfson, who was speaking as he revealed GUS's first decline in profits in 48 years, also said that his long-term plan is to move the group, best known for its "big-book" catalogues such as Kays, into the fast-growing niche catalogue business.

GUS's control of about one third of the UK mail order business would be "a handicap" if it decided to bid for Freemans, he said, but he did not rule out making a move. "Clearly GUS would have to say it is interested in buying another mail order company in the UK because we believe the market is going to consolidate," he said. "There won't be eight major big-book players in eight years' time."

Sears said earlier this week that it is discussing the sale of Freemans with various companies. These are believed to include Littlewoods, N Brown and Germany's Otto Versand, as well as GUS.

If a bid from GUS were referred, the company would have to persuade the Office of Fair Trading to look at its share of the whole UK retail market, or the European mail order market, rather than the UK mail order market alone, Lord Wolfson said.

Lord Wolfson, who is also chairman of Next, took over at GUS from his cousin, Lord Wolfson of Marylebone, in the autumn. Delivering his first set of results for the group yesterday, he unveiled a 1 per cent drop in pre-tax profits, to £235.6 million, in the six months to September 30. The figures were hit by the weakness of the South African rand against sterling, and a decline in UK home shopping sales.

He said that trade "continues to be difficult in the home shopping division", while the strength of sterling will have "a significant effect on the translation of the results of the overseas subsidiaries, particularly South Africa and Holland".

This gloomy outlook sent GUS's shares down 21½p, to 654½p. The £1.2 billion acquisition last month of Experian, the American information services business, should bolster group profits in the second half.

Lord Wolfson added that he wants to expand GUS's direct mail order business either through an acquisition, franchising of an established high street brand, or developing its own "aspirational" direct mail brand — along the lines of Lands' End or LL Bean — from scratch. The recruitment of agents — the people who pass on orders to the company for a fee and who form the backbone of the traditional "big-book" business — has been slowed and the size of the average order has since risen, he said.

Earnings per share slipped from 15.7p to 15.5p, but the interim dividend was raised 10 per cent, to 5.5p. It will be paid on March 27.

Tempus, page 29

John Dawson, right, with Colin Ainger, the finance director, saw Expro's profits rise 34 per cent in the first half

Forward warns again after disaster in US

By Fraser Nelson

A DISASTROUS attempt to make use of spare capacity in the US has prompted a second profits warning in three months from Forward Technology Industries, the troubled electronics and audio company.

Forward switched over its American factory to making more complex machinery for other companies, but found it was unable to meet their requirements. Yesterday's warning prompted a 31 per cent fall in Forward's market value.

The company, which in October gave warning that profits would be down, said it was now on course to go into the red after even more costs from its 15 lossmaking contracts in the US. Its shares, which have already nosedived from 100p to 39p over the past nine months, fell to a two-year low of 26½p yesterday, before closing at 27½p, down 11½p.

Kenneth Cobley, chief executive, said the US failure had been compounded, with sluggish pre-Christmas sales for its Sound and Vision arm, but indicated that the damage would be limited to a small loss for the current financial year.

Analysts now expect Forward to make a pre-tax loss of £400,000 for the year to December 31 — its first time in the red for five years — with a return to profit in 1997. Forward said it has not taken on any more work for other companies since August and expects the last of its lossmaking contracts to be completed by January.

Mr Cobley said that problems came after the company took on plastics-bonding orders for external firms to escape the pressures of its existing market. He added: "On the face of it, it seemed a good opportunity for us, but we got our fingers burnt. We will now be returning to where we were 18 months ago, when we were involved in no one's business but our own."

Expro sees robust oil industry

By Martin Barrow

EXPRO International Group, the oilfield services company, enjoyed a 34 per cent rise in first-half profits and said the oil industry was in robust health despite the uncertain outlook for the price of crude.

In the six months to September 30, the company, which came to market last year, lifted profits to £8.04 million from £6 million. Expro reported strong progress in all regions, including America, where operations where established in mid-1995.

Earnings improved to 9.5p a share from 7.5p previously. The interim dividend is increased 15 per cent to 2.65p a share and will be paid on January 30.

John Dawson, chief executive, said: "The oil industry is in a state of good health, having got to grips with low oil prices over the last five years through downsizing, enhanced technologies and outsourcing. In spite of current improvements in the oil price, our customers' long-term investment decisions assume flat commodity prices; also, they continue to prioritise environmental issues."

Turnover advanced 34 per cent to £49.8 million. The North Sea accounted for turnover of £22.1 million, with strong demand for sub-sea and testing services. Two extended well tests were conducted for Ranger Oil and Norsk Hydro.

Turnover in continental Europe was £10.4 million, while Africa and the former Soviet Union accounted for £9.8 million. Expro also undertook work in the Asia Pacific region.

Expro shares fell 2p to 450p. The shares were issued at 175p in March 1995.

Telstra sell-off given go-ahead

From Rachel Bridge in Sydney

THE proposed A$8 billion (£3.9 billion) privatisation of Telstra, Australia's telecommunications compoany, finally got the go-ahead yesterday after the coalition government narrowly secured parliamentary approval for the sale.

The vote, which was won by 35 votes to 33, is a key victory for the Government, which had been battling for months to gain the support of two independent MPs who held the balance of power.

The planned sale of a third of Telstra will be the largest public flotation in Australia's history and almost double the size of the Commonwealth Bank float that took place earlier this year.

The sale is the centrepiece of the Government's budget plans and is scheduled to get under way next year. The Government's tactics to secure approval for the sale were condemned by the Opposition, which described its moves as pork-barrel vote buying.

In return for the backing of the independent MPs, the Government yesterday agreed to increase its proposed A$1 billion environment programme by A$100 million and to set up a A$250 million fund to improve job opportunities in rural areas.

Telstra paved the way for the sale earlier this year with a 9per cent rise in full-year pre-tax profits to A$2.3 billion and confirmation that it planned to axe 22,000 jobs over the next three years.

Analysts have said that the possibility of industrial action could undermine the float.

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This postponement is to satisfy many candidates who expressed the need to have more time to get the required documents prepared.

The duly filled in prequalification documents are to be sent, not later than February 10, 1997 at 3.00 p.m. to the following address:

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Courts aiming to split shares

SHARES in Courts rose 15 per cent to a record high yesterday after the furniture retailer unveiled better than expected interim results and said it planned to split its shares (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Courts proposed a five-for-two split of its shares, which rose 185p, to £11.60, on the grounds that the price is high relative to most listed companies, inhibiting liquidity.

Pre-tax profits, excluding an exceptional credit of £4.8 million for last year, rose 142 per cent, to £9.6 million, in the half year to September 29. Sales rose 31.5 per cent, to £180 million. The interim dividend, due on April 11, rises 0.4p to 2.5p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Alvis steady despite fewer deliveries

PRE-TAX profits at Alvis, the manufacturer of specialist vehicles and equipment for the defence and aerospace sector, were little changed at £8.9 million in the year to September 30, compared with £8.7 million previously. The company blamed a lower rate of armoured vehicle deliveries at its Alvis vehicles subsidiary and loss of more than £2.5 million at Alvis Transmissions. Turnover fell to £90.4 million from £101.4 million and operating profits were reduced to £4.93 million from £6.3 million.

However, profits at the pre-tax level were helped by an improved contribution from Avimo, an associated company, and higher interest receipts. Earnings were 10.1p a share (10p last time) and the total dividend is increased to 3p a share from 2p, with a 2p final (1.25p). Alvis ended the year with net cash of £26.8 million. Nick Prest, chairman, said the company's strong order book and balance sheet provided a good platform from which to go forward.

Exports boost Denby

GROWTH of 60 per cent in exports spurred Denby Group, the Derbyshire pottery maker, to a record pre-tax profit of £6.1 million, up 28 per cent, in the year to September 30. Earnings per share rose by 27 per cent, to 12.2p, and the final dividend rises from 2.3p to 2.7p, due on January 15, giving a full-year dividend up by 17 per cent, to 4.05p. The company said that sterling's recent strengthening was "an issue" and that it is "taking appropriate measures to limit the impact".

Abbeycrest glitters

ABBEYCREST, the gold and silver jewellery manufacturer, rose to £188,000 from £90,000 in the six months to August 31. Earnings rose to 0.5p a share from 0.3p, while £25.4 million turnover compared with £22.7 million. Abbeycrest will pay an interim dividend of 1.3p (1.2p) on January 17. Michael Lever, chairman, said he was pleased with the company's further profitable growth, with the six-month period being one of positive change and development.

Hornby back on track

PRE-TAX profits at Hornby Group, the model railway and toy manufacturer, recovered to £1.1 million from £272,000 in the six months to September 30 despite a decline in turnover to £13.1 million from £13.7 million. The interim dividend of 2p (nil) will be paid on January 30. Peter Newey, chairman, said a change in the mix of products sold led to the improved profit. He said a new operational management team was appointed in September to improve production efficiency and reduce production costs.

Stake for Bardon

BARDON GROUP, the international quarrying and aggregates group, is poised for an investment in Bruntcliffe Agregates, although a full bid is ruled out. Bardon has taken an option, expiring on January 3, to acquire 8 million Bruntcliffe ordinary shares — representing almost 15 per cent of the share capital — and unsecured loan stock convertible into 5.05 per cent of the enlarged share capital. The purchase will be satisfied in £3.1 million of new Bardon shares.

Norbain expansion plan

NORBAIN, the distributor of closed circuit television equipment, is targeting acquisitions in continental Europe as it lays plans for further expansion. The company, which also supplies alarm products, reported an 18 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £2 million for the six months to October 31, with turnover rising 34 per cent to £43 million. The interim dividend is lifted 20 per cent to 3p a share, payable from earnings that rose 18 per cent to 12.49p a share.

Syltone pulls ahead

SYLTONE, the transport engineering group, said strong demand in the Far East helped to offset weak markets in Europe and North America in the six months to September 30. Sales declined in southern Spain but rose in northern Europe. The company achieved a 46 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £2.6 million on turnover that rose 54 per cent to £39.4 million. The interim dividehd is increased 11 per cent to 2p a share, payable out of earnings that rose 13.6 per cent to 6.69p.

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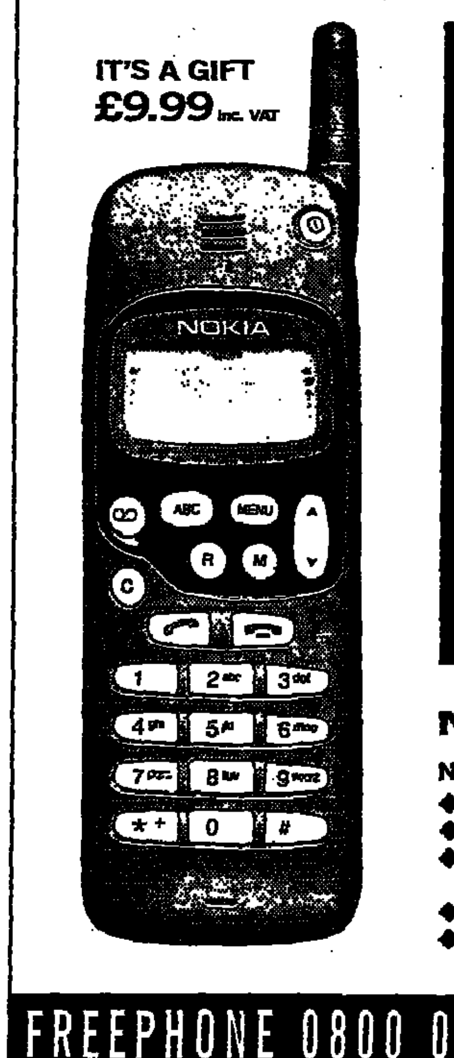

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Logica acquires French business for £18m

By Fraser Nelson

LOGICA, the computer services group, has taken its largest step so far in creating a pan-European network through buying a major French software consultancy for £18.4 million.

Axime Ingenierie, which employs 1,000 staff across France, Belgium and Luxembourg, will become Logica's largest overseas subsidiary, adding sales of £41.1 million a year.

Axime made a loss of £60,000 in its last financial year, but Logica said that its value was enhanced by its contacts with blue-chip clients across France, providing vital links with European business.

Martin Read, Logica's chief executive, accepted that the French economy was in poor health, *but said that Axime* was ideally positioned for the predicted surge in spending on computer systems by European businesses.

He said: "France has been a serious gap in Logica's worldwide map. Axime's customers include lots of big names in France who are the very people we want to do business with."

If France subscribes to a single currency, he said, it will trigger demand for new software systems from banks and insurance companies, which account for 40 per cent of Axime's business. Over the next three years, the computer consultancy market is also expected to gain from demand from companies updating their computers to cope with dates beyond the year 2000.

The deal is being funded from Logica's cash pile, and through limited borrowings. Mr Read said that the company's gearing was still very low, leaving it capable of making more buys in continental Europe.

Logica shares closed yesterday at a new high of 889p, up 27½p.

Axime is to be renamed Logica SA, but its headquar*ters will remain in Paris, and* there will be no job losses.

After the acquisition, Logica's worldwide staff will rise to 4,800, across 20 countries.

Martin Read, left, and Andrew Given, finance director, are developing a pan-European network for Logica by buying a French software consultancy

City trims forecasts as Reed warns of lower group profits

By Eric Reguly

THE City scaled back its earnings forecasts for Reed Elsevier after the publishing group revealed tough trading conditions in several of its businesses. The shares of Reed International of Britain, which jointly owns the company with Elsevier of The Netherlands, fell 64p, to £10.87½.

In an end-of-year trading statement, Reed said the businesses overall "are maintaining good organic growth" and that it remains "confident about the outlook for the year". But it cited several factors that, taken together, suggested group profits in 1997 would come in below some analysts' forecasts.

Nigel Stapleton, Reed's co-chairman, said that the exhibitions business in Europe, particularly in France, has been "softening", although growth is strong in the American and Asian markets. Europe, however, accounts for less than one third of the division's business.

In the travel group, he noted that growth in electronic publications was still not high enough to offset the decline in revenue from their hard-copy counterparts. Reed does not expect growth in electronic publications to offset hard-copy declines until 1999 at the earliest. Mr Stapleton said that a £30 million investment programme is under way and is "designed to position the business in an online environment and to reverse the current revenue trends".

Finally, Reed noted that the recent rise in the value of sterling is not working in its favour. It said that about half of its profits are earned in dollars and Dutch guilders and that 1997 profits would be hurt by some 4 per cent if exhange rates for these currencies remain at current levels. The rise of sterling in the second half of this year has already reversed a 2 per cent currency translation gain in the first half.

The City consensus was that Reed would report pre-tax profits ranging from £920 million to £930 million next year. Salomon Brothers, the Wall Street securities house, now expects earnings of £870 million to £880 million.

Reed made no comment about its acquisition strategy. The company has said that it intends to *make a multi*-billion-dollar purchase in North America using the cash pile it has built from the sale of its consumer businesses. Reed made no significant acquisition this year and is expected to make a move in 1997.

Mr Stapleton would not comment on speculation that Reed would like to buy some *or all of Bloomberg, the pri*vately held financial information group in America that competes with Reuters.

Tempus, page 28

Ransomes cuts its way to a record

By Fraser Nelson

VALUABLE contracts from St Andrews and Gleneagles golf courses prompted strong fol*low-up sales for Ransomes*, the lawnmower company, which returned record results in the year to September 30.

The growth of golf courses across Europe stoked demand for its custom-made lawnmowers, as its commercial division saw profits grow by 8 per cent, to £20.8 million.

But profits fell in its proper*ty and consumer divisions*, leaving overall sales flat at £186 million. The £37 million raised in a rights issue in January helped to cut borrowings from £66.6 million to £5.18 million, to leave pre-tax profits of £12.8 million (£9.2 million).

The company blamed a late and severe winter for the *slump at its consumer divi*sion, whose profits fell from £483,000 to £100,000. The situation had been exacerbated by a general slump of 20 per cent across the home-use lawnmower market, it added. Sales to park authorities in France and Germany were hit by a cut in spending, but Ransomes said its share of the *market was maintained*. Earnings grew to 4.3p per share (3.1p). A resumed final dividend of 0.75p brings the year total to 1.25p, payable on February 3.

Kier flotation gives shares bonanza to employees

By Keith Rodgers

ABOUT 900 employee shareholders in Kier Group, the construction company bought out from Hanson in 1992, will see the average value of their original investment soar from £4,500 to £50,000 when the company floats on Thursday.

NatWest Markets released Kier's listing document yesterday, with a placing price of 170p per share. That values the company at £53.8 million.

The company plans to raise £2.7 million by issuing 1.6 *million new shares, which will* be used mainly to redeem preference shares held by Hill Samuel Bank. Assuming the offer is fully taken up, employees will own 81 per cent of the company and Electra Fleming will hold 9.8 per cent.

Colin Busby, Kier's chairman and chief executive, said only 4 per cent of the total employee holding was being sold in the placing, realising £2.3 million. The directors, who will own 6.8 per cent of the enlarged share capital, are not selling any of their holding.

Mr Busby said the company was coming to market to redeem preference shares and unlock part of the employee shareholding. It has no immediate expansion plans for acquisitions, but felt the time was right to float.

Kier said the opening months of the current year, from July, had seen an increase in turnover in its construction and homes and property divisions.

Pre-tax profits have risen steadily over the past four *years, from £5.6 million in the* year to June 30, 1993, to £7.3 million in 1996. Turnover in the same period increased from £512.2 million to £614.6 million. The placing price represents a multiple of 11 times historic earnings.

Mr Busby said the company's non-executive directors had recommended against *splitting his joint role*. However, he indicated that the option was being kept open.

Directors and other shareholders controlling about 50 per cent of the share capital have undertaken not to dispose of their shares without NatWest's consent before the announcement of the full-year results to June 1997 and to sell no more than 20 per cent the next year. Electra Fleming has also undertaken, with certain conditions, to retain its own holding at least until October 31, 1997.

Hill Samuel stands to realise more than £2 million from the sale of shares and the redemption of preferences.

Chrysler buyback fund $2bn

From a Correspondent

CHRYSLER, the American auto manufacturer, yesterday increased its share buyback programme for 1997 to $2 billion, from $1 billion, and said it will increase the annual dividend to $1.60 a share from $1.40.

The company's share buyback programme now totals $5 billion since it was started in 1995. Chrysler has repurchased 108 million shares and had 714 million shares outstanding at the end of the third quarter.

With the $2 billion share buyback programme for 1996 completed, the board has authorised an immediate start to the 1997 programme, subject to market conditions. Robert Eaton, chairman, said: "The board are positive about the company's prospects and believe that, based on the current economic outlook, the increased dividend is sustainable and the buyback can be accomplished while the company continues to fund its aggressive product and marketing programmes."

NIE advances 9% at halfway

From Eileen McCabe
in Dublin

NORTHERN Ireland Electricity (NIE), whose price structures are being reviewed by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, yesterday reported a 9 per cent increase in interim pre-tax *profits to* £52 million.

David Jefferies, chairman, used the opportunity to reiterate NIE's argument that it can not deliver similar tariffs to other British companies because it does not have "the benefits of economy of scale and diversification of generation source".

In August NIE referred Ofreg's first review of its prices to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Its report is now due on March 17. The regulator had ordered NIE to cut its revenue by 31 per cent next year and to cap price rises over the following four years to two percentage points below inflation. NIE responded by offering a once-off revenue reduction of 22 per cent next year, to be followed by a price cap of three percentage points below inflation. After a series of bitter exchanges, the matter was referred to the MMC.

Patrick Heran is raising the interim from profits of £52m

Yesterday NIE, where Patrick Heran is chief executive, said turnover in the six months to September 30 was *up 11 per cent to £236 million*. Earnings per share rose to 28.7p from 24.3p and the company declared a 10 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 5.5p, payable on March 27.

Mr Jefferies said the results reflected Northern Ireland's buoyant economy and insisted that although MMC recommendations would impact on income, recent efficiency and quality measures would benefit shareholders and customers.

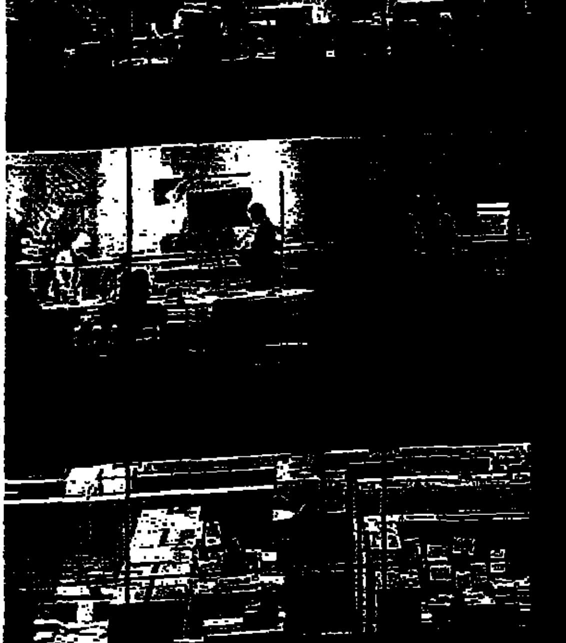
Greencore earnings up by 16%

From Eileen McCabe
in Dublin

GREENCORE, the sugar, milling and malting group based in the Republic of Ireland, yesterday reported a stronger-than-expected rise in annual pre-tax profits, citing improved sales across the full spread of its businesses. Earnings before tax rose by 16 per cent, to Ir£54.6 million, the company said.

David Dilger, chief executive, said that the high production rates of the current sugar-processing campaign and the recent strengthening of sterling against the Irish pound augured well for the future. Greencore's sugar division remains its star performer, with operating profits of Ir£27 mil*lion in the year to September*. Sales were up 5 per cent, largely because of increased exports.

Greencore's growing list of associate companies, which includes Kears, the UK bakery, contributed just over Ir£5 million to the final profits tally. Earnings rose 10 per cent, to Ir25.3p a share. The company declared a 17 per cent increase, to Ir4.5p, in the final dividend, giving a total for the year of Ir6.8p (Ir5.9p), payable on February 17.



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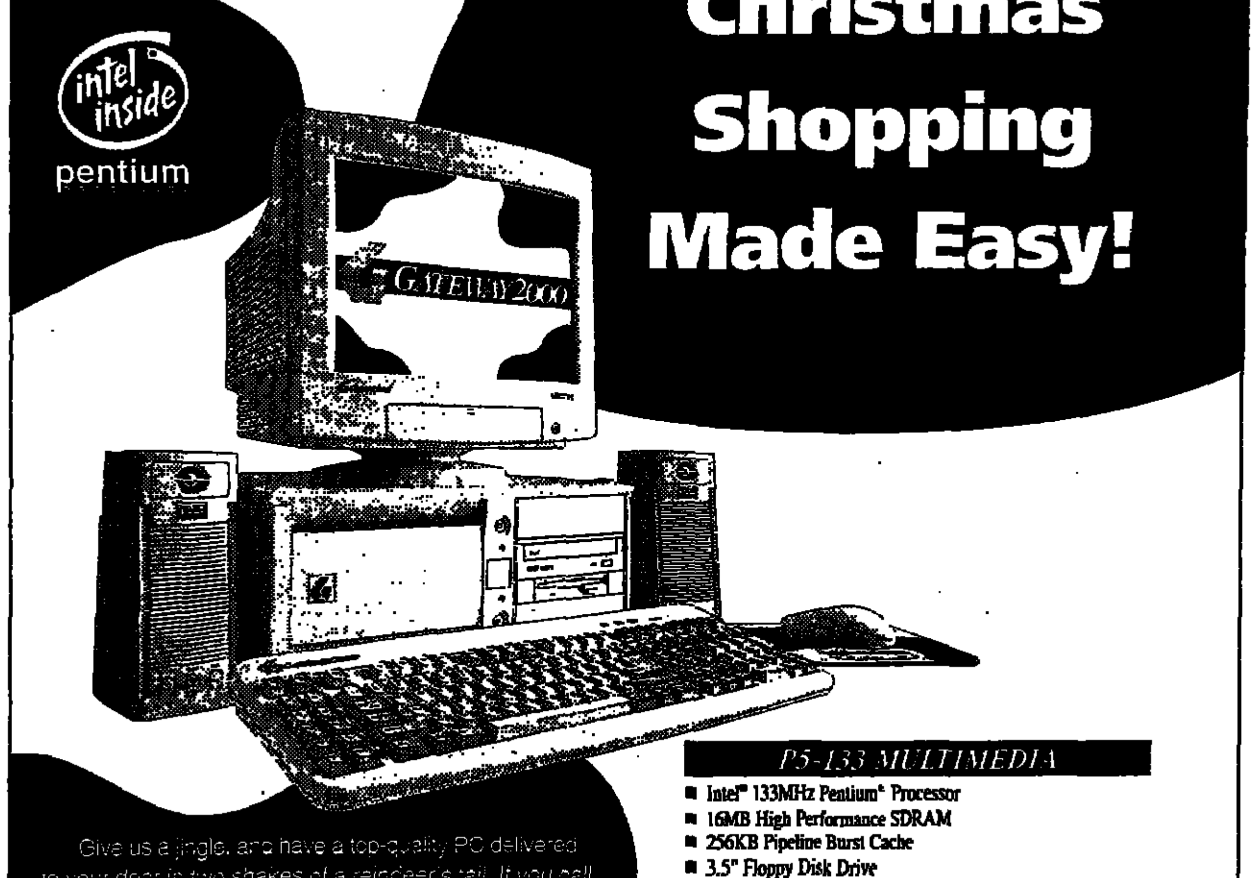

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1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	419	Allied Domecq†	430½	- 7	6.8	13.0
625	477	Bulmer (HP)	542½		3.0	18.2
131	67½	Burn Stewart	71		6.0	75.5
855	615	Glenmorangie A	847½	...	1.8	23.0
496	411	Grand Met	446	- 10½	4.6	14.1
493	430	Guinness	442½	- 8	4.3	13.7
378	315	Highland Distil	346½	+ 6½	3.0	18.7
303	267½	Matthew Clark	278	- 6	10.8	13.2
141	91½	Merrydown W	110½	+ 3	5.3	14.6
2612½	1481¾	SA Breweries†	1518¾	- 9¾	2.2	

BANKS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3959¾	2743¾	ABN-AMRO	3865¾	- 34¾	3.2	14.7
715½	528	Abbey Nat	700	- 6½	4.1	12.9
400	315	Allied Irish	392½	...	4.6	11.3
399¼	285	Aus New Z	387	- 12¼	4.9	..
6187½	3843¾	Bank America	6071⅛	+ 46⅛	..	
316	227½	Bank Scotland	296		3.1	10.9
1037	683	Barclays	1034	+ 18	3.4	11.9
528½	413	Br of Ireland	517½		4.0	11.7
482	360	Cater Allen	395	+ 1½	10.0	14.8
6493¾	4031¼	Citicorp	6462½	- 31¼	...	
332	307½	Close Bros	324½	+ 1	3.9	13.1
1575	1316¾	Commerzbk	1353¾		3.5	..
1350	968¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	984¾		0.5	..
3412½	2768¾	Deutsche Bk	2875	+ 40¾	2.4	
805¾	593¾	Espirito Santo	784¾		4.3	11.1
1507	1021¼	Fuji Bank Y	1030	- 13½	0.4	
472	260	Gerrard Natl	373½	+ 3½	10.5	11.1
267½	196	Hambros†	239½		3.8	20.3
1329	931	HSBC	1323½	+ 6½	3.6	12.5
1295½	930	HSBC HK	1290	+ 4½	3.7	12.2
490¾	385	Irish Perm	498½		2.9	13.7
197	143	King Shaxson†	182½		6.2	15.9
465	405	Leopold J	465		5.2	16.8
431	294½	Lloyds TSB	418	- 6½	3.6	17.7
738½	566	Nat Aust Bk	731	+ 5	5.7	9.7
735½	605½	Nat West	699	+ 4½	4.7	10.0
67	40½	Rea Brothers	60½		2.1	23.8
596	464	Royal Bk Scot	534	+ 11	4.5	11.5
1547½	1185	Schroders	1545		1.4	17.6
1277½	890	Schroders N/V	1275		1.7	14.5
135	99½	Singer & Fried	138½		4.1	9.4
739½	547	Stand Chart	697	+ ½	2.2	13.8
115½	85½	Unidare	95	+ 1½	3.9	10.2
£174½	£131¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	
362	264	Westpac	360½	- 1½	3.8	11.5

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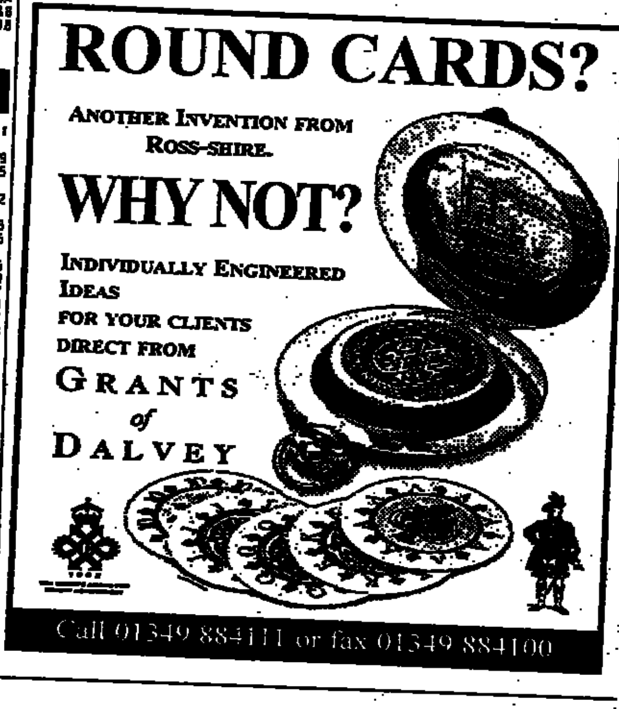

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Grofund Japan	154.10	163.00†	+ 2.60	
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UK Growth Inc	306.50	326.10†	+ 2.10	2.59
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Higher Inc Inc	444.90	473.30†	+ 4.30	4.04
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Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	94.25	99.54	+ 0.22	5.38
Nth America	379.60	404.10†	+ 4.40	..
Europe	368.20	391.80	+ 7.60	0.46
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Brit Fndmtls Acc	118.80	126.40	+ 0.90	4.58
Brit Fndmtls Inc	79.46	84.56	+ 0.57	4.58
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Balanced Acc	64.78	68.90†	+ 0.66	2.51
Balanced Inc	60.47	64.33†	+ 0.64	2.51
Japan Acc	42.71	45.44	+ 1.50	..
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Extra Income #	47.38	49.87†	+ 0.31	6.52
Far East Emg Ecn	127.30	133.50	+ 1.70	0.47
Fixed Interest #	25.37	26.39†	- 0.02	9.00
Fxd Inv Tst	155.70	163.40	+ 0.89	9.40
Japan	165.50	179.10	+ 4.80	..
Latin American	58.32	60.70	+ 0.63	0.80
Pacific	82.91	87.04	+ 1.30	0.30
Property Share	74.80	78.53	+ 0.18	2.24
UK Emerging Cos	69.97	75.63		1.27
UK Growth	55.78	58.10	+ 0.38	2.02
Aber World Port #	82.32	83.94†	+ 0.79	3.44
Ethical	78.17	81.30†	+ 0.40	2.17
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.32	50.37†	- 0.10	7.36
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0171 258 5868				
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Capital	514.30	549.70	+ 1.40	1.14
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Accumulator	1642.00	1755.00†	+ 7.00	1.76
Income Trusts				
American Income	64.67	68.900	+ 0.30	2.32
High Income	470.70	503.10	+ 2.30	4.24
Equity Income	267.30	285.50	+ 1.20	3.69
High Yield	285.60	305.20†	+ 1.40	3.84
Govt Securities	34.02	36.070	- 0.18	5.92
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	227.90	243.20	+ 0.90	0.05
European Growth	54.95	58.530	+ 0.96	0.07
International	190.60	203.70	+ 2.50	0.11
Japan	183.70	196.30	+ 3.90	...
Pacific	413.50	442.00	+ 5.50	..
Secs of America	615.80	655.20†	+ 3.50	0.12
Wwide Asset Val	58.97	60.980	+ 0.70	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	655.30	700.50†	+ 2.50	1.95
Cons & Gilt	51.19	54.710	- 0.01	3.87
Smaller Cos	205.50	217.50	+ 8.10	1.05
2nd Smaller Cos	193.60	204.40	+ 0.20	0.88
Recovery	172.50	184.40†	+ 0.50	1.53
Met Min & Cdty	164.80	178.00†	+ 1.30	0.18
Oseas Earnings	433.40	463.30	+ 0.80	1.05
Technology	229.50	245.30	+ 3.50	...
UK Special Sits	600.90	642.30	+ 2.30	0.97
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Charity Dist Pens	119.70	124.30	...	3.04
Foundtn Pens Fnd	71.09	73.85		1.44
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 600 0033				
Capital	87.79	93.30	+ 0.04	1.14
International	68.71	73.10		
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	360.70	383.80	+ 0.30	..
Bond	120.40	126.80	- 0.50	6.51
Brit Smlr Cos	118.70	126.30	+ 0.10	1.75
Cons & Gen #	70.43	74.93†	+ 0.41	5.16
Europe	292.20	308.90†	+ 7.90	0.50
Euro Smlr Cos	128.50	134.20†	+ 2.80	0.58
Income Gwth	362.90	386.40†	+ 0.10	4.92
Japan	298.50	315.60	+ 7.20	..
Latin American	85.08	90.52	+ 1.22	0.75
Pacific	115.10	122.40†	+ 0.90	0.98
UK Smlr Cos	58.19	61.90	- 0.05	1.45
Japan Fd	586.10	608.10	+ 8.90	..
Mngd Fd	207.40	220.00	+ 1.70	2.71
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Oseas	390.00	412.50	+ 9.30	0.06
Capital Gwth	134.00	141.70	+ 0.90	3.03
Wwide Opps	231.40	244.70	+ 6.10	2.98
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0181 522 4000				
Balanced Trusts				
Gwth & Inc Inc	437.30	467.40†	+ 1.50	2.48
European Bd Inc	99.58	103.10		6.07
Exempt	85.44	91.01†	+ 0.30	2.78
500	504.80	551.30		2.24
General	332.60	358.00	+ 0.80	2.47
Property	244.80	262.70†		5.18
Trustee	233.70	250.00	+ 0.90	2.27
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.00	100.00	..	5.27
Distribution @	113.20	113.80†	+ 0.20	6.17
Extra Income #	139.97	149.67	+ 0.60	4.65
Gilt & Fxd Int	59.13	61.28†	- 0.29	7.76
Income #	605.60	647.70	+ 2.90	4.48
Income Builder #	70.48	75.17	+ 0.21	5.16
Intl Income	73.25	77.98	+ 0.42	2.27
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	146.30	156.40	+ 0.30	1.86
FTSE 100	103.50	110.20†	+ 0.50	2.71
Leisure	179.70	192.20	- 0.20	0.76
Recovery	498.60	533.50	+ 1.60	2.73
Smlr Cos Inc	58.60	62.84	- 0.09	2.42
Special Sits	406.60	435.50	+ 1.10	1.51
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	180.20	191.20†	- 0.20	0.31
F East Gwth Acc	301.90	323.70	+ 2.80	0.55
Far East Gwth	179.10	192.00†	+ 1.70	0.55
Euro Gwth Inc	194.20	208.00	+ 1.80	0.58
-do- Accum	211.20	224.10	+ 2.00	0.58
Japan	136.50	144.60	+ 2.90	
-do- Accum	138.10	148.30	+ 2.90	..
Japan Spec Sits	63.94	67.73	+ 1.50	
Worldwide	200.60	213.20	+ 1.70	0.35
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	138.50	146.57	+ 1.60	...
Amer Smlr Cos	159.10	170.70	+ 3.30	
Convertibles	61.05	66.36	+ 0.22	4.60
Eastern	309.10	330.90	+ 6.10	0.30
Equity Income #	102.10	109.30†	+ 0.60	4.20
European Growth	372.40	398.00	+ 7.80	0.80
Europe	367.40	391.80†	+ 8.40	0.09
German Growth	88.66	94.62	+ 2.46	0.59
Global Bond	72.85	76.80	+ 0.19	6.20
Global Growth	146.40	155.50†	+ 2.80	0.40
Japan Growth	185.00	196.50	+ 5.90	
Japan Smlr Cos	141.60	150.20	+ 2.40	
Korea Trust	52.14	56.27	+ 0.06	
Portfolio	147.20	157.10	+ 1.10	2.00
-do- Accum	279.00	297.90	+ 2.20	2.00
UK Growth	109.00	116.90	+ 0.40	2.60
UK Smaller Cos	97.51	105.30†	+ 0.48	1.90
Select Managers	89.93	95.42	+ 0.73	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Est Gwth Port Inc	88.66	94.32	...	
Special Situs Inc	58.92	62.60	..	
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6030				
Balanced Growth	145.87	154.36†	+ 0.43	1.47
-do- Accum	169.79	179.66	+ 0.51	1.47
Smaller Cos	158.85	168.09†	+ 0.79	0.86
Higher Yield #	58.13	61.51†	+ 0.10	4.12
American Gth Inc	106.31	112.49	+ 0.17	...
European Growth	168.26	178.05	+ 1.63	0.13
-do- Accum	171.64	181.63	+ 1.58	0.13
Mngd Ptfolo Inc	54.69	57.85	+ 0.34	1.45
-do- Accum	56.75	60.03	+ 0.36	1.45
Intl Spec Opps	168.23	178.02	- 0.67	
Pacific Gth	153.53	162.45	+ 1.25	0.04
UK General #	100.61	106.47	+ 0.24	2.85
-do- Accum #	107.64	113.91	+ 0.26	2.77
Japan	53.47	56.58	+ 2.33	...
Gilt & Fixed Int #	101.80	105.40†	- 0.55	8.29
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	66.70	67.96	- 0.06	6.86
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Europe	190.30	200.30†	+ 0.50	1.06
UK Growth	216.80	228.20	+ 0.90	2.11
UK Income	151.50	159.90	+ 0.50	4.33
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	240.40	254.80	+ 2.50	1.55
-do- Income Dist	129.70	137.50	+ 0.70	3.54
-do- Accum	424.50	449.90	+ 2.20	3.54
Gilt & Fxd Int	41.73	43.85		6.20
Growth Units	282.40	300.80	+ 1.90	1.91
Bond	179.40	188.70	- 0.80	6.80
Eq Growth	247.70	263.30	+ 4.70	0.15
North American	268.20	281.80	+ 2.20	0.03
Far East	315.10	337.00	+ 5.40	0.51
UK Smaller Cos	223.30	238.80		1.01
European	99.43	105.30	+ 2.00	0.52
Japanese Growth	43.17	45.82	+ 1.42	...
High Income	227.80	243.40	+ 1.40	4.03
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	228.30	242.00	+ 3.80	..
European Inc	97.32	103.10	+ 2.49	0.78
Smaller Cos (A-T)	107.40	114.30	+ 0.20	1.42
Growth	558.00	593.70	+ 3.70	2.02
Income & Growth #	473.60	503.80	+ 4.00	3.74
-do- Accum #	715.80	761.60	+ 5.90	3.74
Japan & Gen	60.72	64.49	+ 1.89	..
Master Portfolio	£124.56	£129.75	+155.00	1.77
-do- Accum	£154.39	£160.41	+192.00	1.77

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	104.06	110.95	+ 0.76	1.82
American Portfolio	126.94	134.79†	+ 0.49	1.02
European Portfolio	139.08	147.88	+ 1.36	0.83
High Income	52.77	52.90†	- 0.01	7.44
Japanese Portfolio	62.35	66.10	+ 1.21	.
Pacific Portfolio	160.26	172.35†	+ 1.16	1.05
UK Equity	99.64	105.42	+ 0.44	3.37
UK Equity & Bd	58.88	62.40	+ 0.28	6.15
UK Smlr Cos	51.99	55.61	+ 0.05	1.25
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	775.40	787.12		4.34
Fxd Int Sec	157.19	157.93		8.06
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	777.88	789.64	..	4.28
Investment Acc	£35.87	£36.41		
Fixed Int Inc	129.75	130.27		8.50
Fixed Int Acc	236.37	237.31		
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	90.78	95.89	+ 1.63	5.24
Buck Bio-Tech	43.52	47.36†	+ 2.78	
Acorn Ethical Tst	188.72	196.07		0.45
City Fin Assets	80.07	84.08		1.88
City Fin Ind	89.47	93.95†		0.14
Friars Hse Cap	312.82	332.79		2.53
Buckley Wrld Gth	135.31	143.43		
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	58.91	61.86†	- 0.42	3.48
Shaw Utilities	58.99	61.53†	+ 0.73	5.52
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	53.78	57.04	+ 0.15	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	82.80	88.09	+ 0.98	..
Dragon Growth	74.57	79.75	+ 1.56	0.31
Equity High Inc	91.38	97.81†	+ 0.96	4.22
-do- Accum	133.12	142.84	+ 1.40	4.22
Extra Income Inc	27.01	28.45	- 0.09	7.21
Extra Income Acc	29.72	31.31	- 0.10	7.21
European Gwth	65.01	68.98	+ 1.50	0.79
Evergreen	32.19	34.32	+ 0.52	.
General Equity	107.58	114.15	+ 0.93	2.83
Japan Growth	43.94	46.74	+ 1.40	..
Pedigree Gwth	65.71	70.40	+ 0.51	2.27
Prof Sm Cos Inc	37.70	40.54†	- 0.02	1.37
-do- Accum	40.19	43.21	- 0.03	1.37
Retirement Inc #	27.79	30.02	+ 0.28	8.03
Special Sits	46.81	50.33	+ 0.35	2.39
UK & Overseas	61.52	65.27	+ 0.98	0.51
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 888 000				
Balanced	71.77	74.76	+ 0.47	4.94
Capital	85.72	89.29	+ 0.75	2.98
High Income	52.78	54.97†	- 0.21	6.80
Top 50	58.41	60.84	+ 0.54	2.51
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 888 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	196.15	204.32	+ 0.99	4.50
Long Gilt	45.01	46.87	+ 0.05	5.67
Monthly Inc Plus	50.95	53.07	- 0.08	8.44
Preference Share	48.30	50.31	+ 0.06	7.75
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	143.42	149.40	+ 0.72	6.71
Managed Fund	78.55	81.82	+ 0.08	2.71
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	53.12	55.38	- 0.09	1.72
-do- Accum	82.79	86.40	- 0.10	1.72
UK & General	99.79	103.95	+ 0.46	2.90
-do- Accum	131.31	136.78	+ 0.60	2.90
UK Growth	200.77	209.14	+ 1.02	1.34
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	216.55	225.57	+ 5.19	0.54
Far Eastern Gth	136.55	142.24	+ 3.45	0.02
Global Bond	78.58	81.85	+ 1.30	6.06
Japan Growth	104.88	109.25	+ 3.45	..
North Amer Gth	248.70	259.06	+ 3.49	
Oriental Growth	87.24	90.88	+ 2.08	0.25
Worldwide Growth	73.74	76.81	+ 1.40	.
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.12	92.12	+ 0.01	5.23
Homeowner Fund	91.73	97.59	+ 0.91	1.55
Gulliver Fund	157.86	167.94	+ 0.77	1.90
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	36.59	39.06	+ 0.39	4.25
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	179.80	191.10†	+ 0.50	2.69
Income	74.95	79.73	+ 0.42	4.94
European	77.68	82.64	+ 1.49	0.79
Recovery	191.80	204.00	+ 2.80	2.56
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	1003.80	1019.78†	.	3.32
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
Fellowship Tst	113.10	120.30	- 0.10	1.14
Income #	290.30	308.70†	+ 1.60	4.54
-do- Accum #	774.80	824.20	+ 4.30	4.54
Smaller Cos	236.80	251.90	- 0.60	0.85
-do- Accum	294.10	312.80	- 0.70	0.85
Gilt Portfolio	103.90	110.50	+ 0.60	1.28
High Inc Port #	84.54	89.93	+ 0.53	4.23
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 479 1834				
Euro Small Cos	1640.50	1689.10†	+25.50	...
Japan Small Cos	1028.80	1046.30†	+15.20	0.01
UK Small Cos	2285.20	2296.00	+ 1.60	2.08
US Small Cos	2173.50	2245.70†	+78.50	0.03
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	231.70	243.90†	...	3.07
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	175.80	186.80†	+ 0.60	1.73
UK High Inc Inc	182.50	194.10	+ 0.60	3.67
-do- Accum	250.30	266.20	+ 0.90	3.67
UK Prnl & F I Inc	60.19	63.87†	- 0.17	5.79
Emerging Opps	101.40	107.80	+ 0.50	0.93
UK Smlr Cos #	69.42	73.85	- 0.20	1.08
Extra Income Inc	50.93	54.18	- 0.27	7.38
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 528				
American	184.00	195.50	+ 1.80	0.41
Convertibles #	22.76	24.18†	+ 0.05	5.79
Equity Income #	144.70	153.70†	+ 0.80	3.90
Eurofund	64.92	68.74	+ 1.15	0.58
Financial	58.17	61.81	+ 0.45	1.46
Growth & Inc #	294.70	313.50	+ 1.60	2.79
High Dist #	180.40	191.70†	+ 1.00	4.43
International	438.50	465.90	+ 5.00	0.11
Int Cap Inc	107.10	114.30	+ 1.00	2.35
Latin American	31.34	33.30	+ 0.33	
Pacific	65.23	69.56	+ 1.34	
Prof High Inc	22.88	24.26	- 0.09	7.42
Tokyo	202.90	214.90	+ 3.10	...
UK Smaller Cos	257.90	274.00	- 0.70	1.80
Dunedin Unit Trusts				
European Gwth	338.90	358.90	+ 8.00	1.00
Jap Smlr Co	376.50	399.50	+ 7.60	..
Nth Amer	446.00	472.40	+ 1.50	0.62
Uk Inc & Gth	257.10	274.40	+ 1.20	2.70
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
BGI Director Digs	116.32	124.41	- 1.13	1.13
Growth Acc	261.23	279.10	+ 8.05	1.09
Income	608.31	648.46	- 4.85	6.17
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7291				
Endurance Fd	228.80	243.49	+ 2.10	1.22
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	93.01	97.91	+ 1.20	1.81
Ethical Tst	47.77	50.28	+ 0.24	0.95
Far Eastern	306.26	322.38	+ 3.77	1.52
High Income	141.71	149.17†	+ 0.84	4.85
UK Index Tracking	52.62	55.39	+ 0.15	3.23
Intl Growth	143.37	150.92	+ 1.36	0.55
North American	154.45	162.58	+ 0.93	1.58
Pelican	144.96	152.58	+ 0.42	3.17
Smaller Cos	73.88	77.77	+ 0.30	2.80
Special Sits	90.57	95.34	+ 0.17	3.00
Tst of Inv Tsts	219.64	231.20	+ 1.26	1.23
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Smaller Cos Inc	232.79	247.65	+ 0.87	2.38
Smaller Cos Acc	420.44	447.28	+ 1.58	2.28
Recovery	57.28	60.94†	- 0.26	2.28
Recovery Acc	59.75	63.56†	- 0.28	2.28
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	94.43	101.27		
Fd of Inv Tsts	52.91	56.44	+ 0.13	0.51
High Income #	39.66	42.53	..	10.83
Warrant	45.23	49.16	+ 0.09	..
Zero Preference	44.81	47.65†	+ 0.03	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	95.70	101.80	+0.400	2.52
United Charities	318.90	339.20	+0.700	2.21
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	..	5.50
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	28.31	29.35	+ 0.43	5.30
Strategic Inc	27.50	28.79†	...	5.65
Income Funds				
High Income	27.22	28.57†	+ 0.09	5.39
Income Plus	135.90	141.50†	+ 1.10	3.94
European Income	51.26	54.44	+ 0.98	2.50
UK Div Gth	32.68	34.75	+ 0.23	2.15
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	62.00	65.99	+ 1.27	...
American	335.50	358.70†	+ 4.90	...
Amer Spec Sits	189.10	201.50	+ 2.70	..
Japan Smaller Cos	29.34	31.25	+ 0.65	...
European	233.50	248.30	+ 4.20	0.55
European Opps	82.29	87.46	+ 1.88	0.02
Global Pwr	31.17	33.15	+ 0.48	0.34
UK Growth	126.30	134.36	+ 0.30	1.45
Growth & Inc	184.80	196.50	+ 1.10	2.36
Intl PEP	49.76	52.89	+ 0.68	1.09
Japan Spec Sits	80.16	85.08	+ 2.00	..
Japan	166.90	177.08	+ 6.10	...
Managed Intl	363.40	386.50	+ 6.40	0.48
Moneybuilder	67.54	71.82	+ 0.67	.
Recovery	62.95	66.94	- 0.06	1.61
South E Asia	195.10	208.20	+ 3.50	0.92
Special Sits	744.10	791.20	+ 8.80	0.56
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	116.85	116.85	+ 0.04	5.50
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	150.10	152.60	...	1.57
Finsbury Pfl Inc #	88.57	90.65†	+ 0.38	5.91
Cap Pfolio	165.30	167.70	+ 1.40	0.85
General Opps	143.00	145.90†	...	4.16
Growth Inc	37.83	38.26†	+ 0.21	1.30
Private Portfolio	493.00	501.00		1.19
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 366 Admin/Val 01277 690 350				
Euro Smlr Cos	155.09	165.20	+ 3.80	0.24
Emrg Asian	130.20	140.20	+ 1.90	..
High Income	21.51	22.88†	+ 0.15	8.83
UK Income #	113.70	121.30†	+ 0.60	4.07
US Smaller Cos	428.90	458.50	+ 7.10	...

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BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Founded 1553 Re-Endowed 1693

Upper School (HMC, 13-18) 695 pupils, Lower School (IAPS; 7-13) 425 pupils, Pre-Preparatory, (3-7) 140 pupils

BOARDING AND DAY, BOYS AND GIRLS

Building for the Future on the Foundations of the Past

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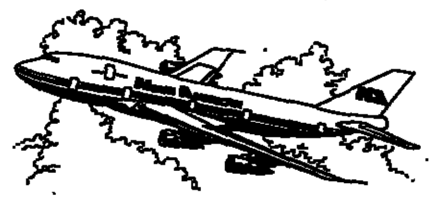

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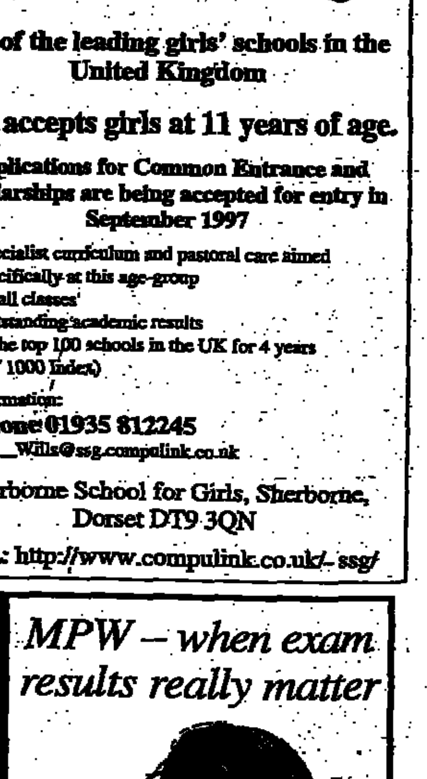

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هكذا من الاصل

EDUCATION

Driven to the wall by league tables

Graham Lacey gives warning of a dangerous trend which could threaten the existence of the independents

Politicians and pundits have been predicting the collapse of independent schools since the end of the last war, if not before. Thirty years or so ago, with a Labour Party red in tooth and claw (when it was in opposition, at least) they perhaps had good reason to believe it.

Since then, independent schools have gone from strength to strength. From the demise of grant-maintained schools to Thatcher's social revolution, which enfranchised a new generation of school fee-payers, they have flourished. Now, however, with no obvious threat, I believe they are in danger of being caught off-guard.

Independent schools have traditionally forged their identity from being "different", not only from the state sector but within themselves. Thus they have offered a genuine choice to parents. Now there appears to be an unstoppable trend, driven largely by market forces, towards a homogeneity that threatens to undermine the independent schools' most compelling justification to exist.

There has been a steady development towards the removal of variety and choice within the sector. The sternest critics of single-sex or boarding schools would surely not dispute that the opportunity should at least be there for parents to choose between them and co-educational and/or day schools. The choice is becoming more restricted every year.

But it has been the emphasis and priority given to academic results which has most eroded distinctions within the sector. While independent schools will continue partly to justify their existence on the ground that they set high academic standards, they have come up against the problem that this may not correspond, and perhaps even may conflict, with the priority they must now give to ensure a high position in the league tables.

The national obsession with exam results is doubly unfortunate for independent schools, for it has been responsible not only for removing the differences between them, but also between independent schools as a whole and their rivals in the state system. The horns of the two sectors are locked and the battle is being fought for the same prize. There is no guarantee that independent schools will emerge victorious.

A glance at the notorious league tables would seem to confirm this. Independent schools' domination of the top positions has, at least until recently, been maintained because they have had more resources to achieve good exam results, but also because they have been able to be more selective in their intake. While the first advantage may still hold, the second has been undermined by the pressing need to fill places at any price.

Conversely, selection has come back into fashion in the state sector, and its adoption does not appear to be confined to the Conservative Party. The emergence of the GMs has not only accentuated the problem of recruitment for independent schools but seriously challenged the assumption that they offer the best education, if quality continues to be measured by league table position. The recent success of the new state sector elite in breaking into the "premier league" has forced a reappraisal of the old assumption that independent schools, almost by definition, offer the best education.

The next generation of parents will be asking: "Why spend £10,000 a year on school fees when a similar education can be experienced at the local grammar for nothing?"

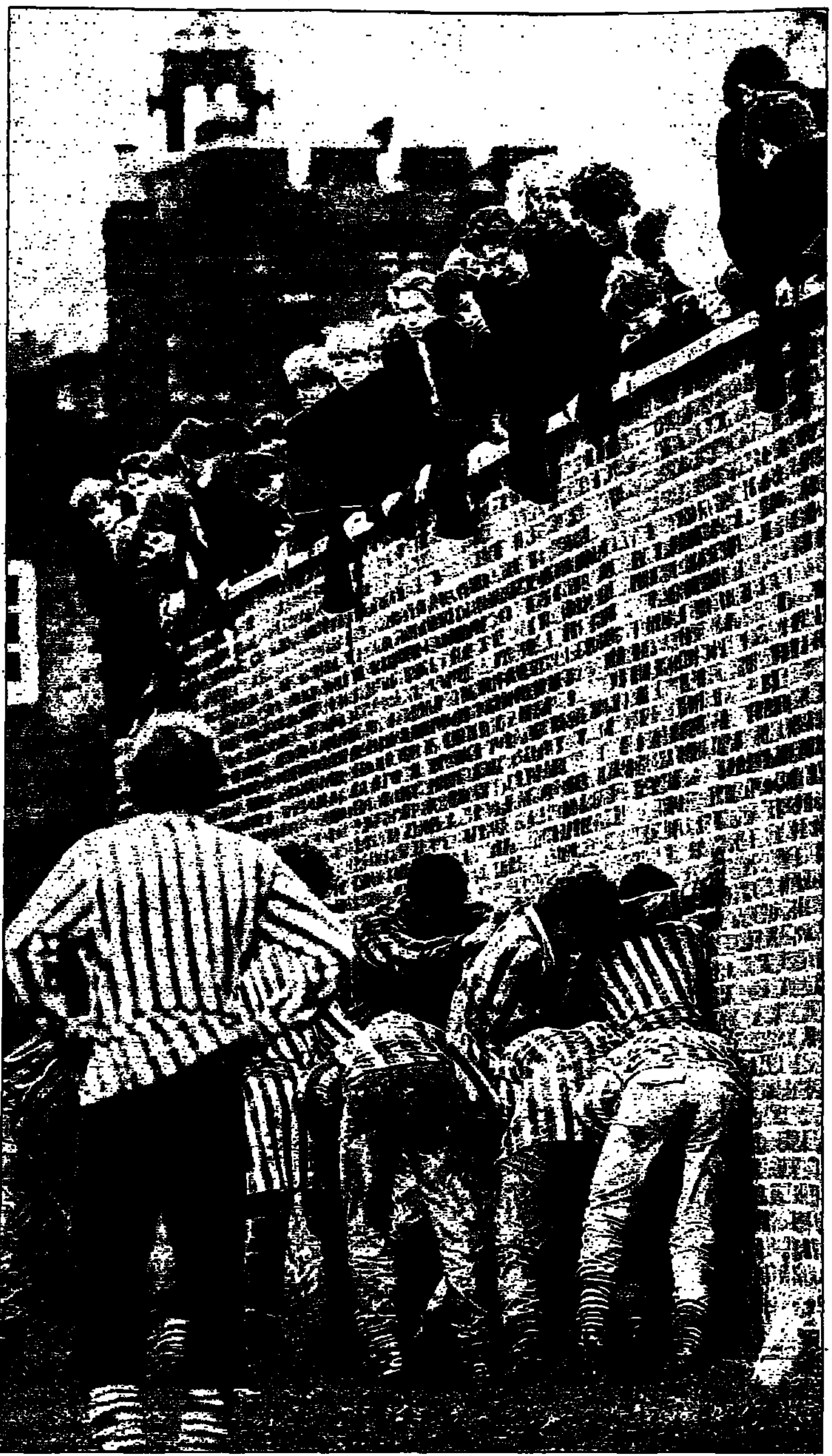
The problem for independent schools is that they have, until recently, built their *raison d'être*, at least in part, on values that no league table, "value-added" or not "value-added", can assess. How does one measure *esprit de corps*, or self-reliance, or the value of a "rounded education" that provides the opportunity for an individual's potential to be tapped — a potential which may be displayed in the school concert hall or on the sports field as much as, or even instead of, in the classroom?

Such an education is being sacrificed on the "league table" altar. One does not have to work in the independent sector to know that extracurricular activities no longer have the place they used to, especially if they have to grind to a halt for most of the summer term to give way to the sitting of exams.

If the independent schools' future is to be secured they will have to sacrifice their market's short-term demands for a longer-term strategy for survival. This might involve a redefining of their identity and the use of their extra resources to offer, once more, something distinctively different, in process and product, from their rivals in the state sector. In the long term the market, fickle though it is, may start to look for an alternative dish to the blancmange served up by the vast majority.

The great educational changes of the past 200 years were not introduced on the basis of "customer demand". How many youngsters, for example, wanted to go to school when an Act of 1880 made attendance compulsory? Yet who now would advocate its repeal? For the security of their own future as much as for the cause of education, it is time for independent schools similarly to buck the market and put education above economics and principle above popularity.

● *Graham Lacey is head of careers at Sevenoaks School, Kent.*



The Eton Wall Game may build *esprit de corps* — but such values are not recorded in league tables

Bold new world where students' needs come first

Tony Evans argues against the evils of uniformity in mass university education

The university world is undergoing seismic change which may not prove to the advantage of students. There are grounds for observing this with suspicion, as you might a pudding you're not sure you ordered.

A system that once channelled only a few through university gates and wastefully spurned the talents of so many has become one of mass university education. Where 7 per cent entered in 1960, and some 14 per cent in 1980, a third will enter between now and the millennium. That, in developing the nation's potential, is entirely laudable — provided consequences have been considered and calculated for students, and for the status of the university sector.

Few deny that spreading the benefits of a university experience across the population is positive, or that a nation is enriched by those who continue their education. You do not have to agree with Alan Coren that a university is not a university unless you can climb it with a chamberpot. But is it wise for mass university education to be synonymous with uniformity?

Must the pressures of such expansion cause the demise of the most brilliant? To nurture the quality and safeguard the provision of the most demanding courses for those who need such intellectual rigour must be a priority. Marathons are a mass-entry business, yet elite athletes have their unashamed, privileged place in them.

> 'Must such expansion cause the demise of the most brilliant?'

You may expect the Provost of University College London to represent the need for an Ivy League. "Unless," he writes, "we have more selectivity we won't have any university able to compete with the University of Chicago or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology." When France expanded its university sector, did the status of its Grandes Ecoles suffer?

Already there is an unofficial Premier League of British universities, and it is no doubt available for any hotel chain's sponsorship. This has developed with scant regard to the quality of student life, the quality of teaching and accommodation, the adequacy of grants, the spiralling drop-out rates, the conditions of work in libraries and laboratories, the threatened necessity for fees, the inevitability of students' part-time jobs, the comparability and value of degrees.

Universities' reputations can wax and wane and departments' strengths all the more so in the universities' new academic transfer market. How are pupils to know where is most appropriate? How are their teachers to advise? And is there not a similar lottery in the matter of admissions?

For a variety of reasons the time has come to adopt a process of post-qualification admissions, as the association of every school and college has urged. Of course, such a systemic change would require compromise and adjustment by schools, examination boards and universities. But, in greater justice, economy and personal care, the benefits to the students — those whom the system purports to serve — far outweigh all other imperatives and vested interests.

There are other questions which must be boldly addressed and not left for coincidence to solve. Shall we move still further, on grounds of growing financial necessity, into attendance at the local university? What are the consequences which cultural shift might imply? Are we moving, through unplanned devaluation of the first degree, into the culture of the indispensable Master's degree? Are we to embark irrevocably on a voyage of socially isolated computer-learning? How will that correct our reputedly national weaknesses in communication, team work and oral presentation? Will the answer to the lamented paucity of top-class engineers, scientists, mathematicians and linguists be found by providing yet more degrees in Golf Course Studies or Floristry or modules on philosophy from Kant to Cantona?

And perhaps, we did not actually need such a rapid increase in graduates, many with disproportionate, and therefore dangerously frustrated, expectations; perhaps, if we had scrutinised other international models and as the National Skills Audit confirms, we might have felt that it was more at a lower and intermediate stage that our skills and flexibility were nationally so deficient.

How is it such confusion can occur, unless it has all been planned by someone deservedly obscure on Floor 25 who is manifestly a few entries short of a dictionary?

Like London's, our educational skyline is not cohesively planned. No doubt Sir Ron Dearing is at this very moment peering at it all through his telescope. I trust he will focus first on the students.

● *Tony Evans is headmaster of The Portsmouth Grammar School and chairman of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference.*

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Campaign breaks down the barriers

Doug McAvoy and **Richard Brewster** report on the success of a joint initiative to open up state schools to the disabled

A drive to open up state schools to hundreds of disabled pupils is set to win the backing it needs. Only thanks to the Schools Access Initiative is a picture emerging of the extent to which such children were prohibited from attending their local schools.

In the next few days the Government will almost certainly announce that the initiative — which encourages mainstream schools to become more accessible to pupils with disabilities — will continue.

In this, the initiative's first year, the Government has provided £7.6 million which, with partnership funding, means that £10.6 million is available to local authority and voluntary-aided schools. Recognition of the need is the direct result of a campaign by the National Union of Teachers and the charity Scope.

The campaign started in 1992, when both organisations realised that neither government nor education authorities knew whether schools were accessible to disabled children. Coopers and Lybrand was commissioned to investigate and its report, *Within Reach*, painted a bleak picture.

A second survey revealed that only 10 per cent of secondary schools and 26 per cent of primary schools were completely accessible. A model was then costed which would ensure that half the secondary schools became totally accessible, and 75 per cent of primary schools could achieve 75 per cent accessibility.

Coopers and Lybrand concluded that it would cost £59 million for primary schools and £251 million for secondary schools to achieve the targets. As a result of the survey the Government decided to conduct bi-annual access audits, one of which, earlier this year, confirmed that there is still a long way to go.

During this summer the NUT and Scope became increasingly anxious that the funding so far provided was a one-off. Forty-five MPs from all parties called on the Government to reaffirm its initiative.

Lord Henley, the schools minister, recognised the importance of the initiative but called for evidence of its impact. In just over a week Scope and the NUT received evidence from a large number of schools. Projects included the construction of handrails, ramps, new floors and storage spaces for electric wheelchairs. Others were using the money to improve access for pupils with sensory disabilities.

Most of the resources went to improving physical access. One high school in Hull reported: "It is difficult to imagine how the school could have coped without the essential alterations which had to be made (ramps and a toilet for the disabled) for our first severely physically handicapped pupil."

But the funding may not be enough. A telling letter from a school in Liverpool illustrates the limitations of bidding arrangements which favour matched funding from outside sponsors: "This school is situated in an area of huge economic disadvantage . . . the community can do very little to help itself without financial support."

Another school summed up the collective feelings about receiving a fraction of their original bid. "We have only just made a start. The school's commitment to disabled access is for all five or seven years of a pupil's stay here. I hope the Government's commitment is for more than one year."

Virtually every letter we received recognised the symbolic as well as the practical value of the funding. The initiative is unique because it has involved co-operation between the Government, a teachers' union, a voluntary organisation, schools and local education authorities.

It will be for the new government after the election to decide whether to maintain a continuing commitment to a project which has provided educational opportunities to a large number of children and young people who otherwise would have been denied them.

● *Doug McAvoy is General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers. Richard Brewster is the chief executive of Scope.*

JACKY CHAPMAN/FORMAT

Come on in: a disabled boy joins a mainstream class

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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا بعض الأهالي

■ CHOICE 1

Larry Lamb plays Fellini in the British premiere of the musical *Nine*

VENUE: Now in preview at the Donmar Warehouse

■ CHOICE 2

Small dose of Lloyd Webber: *Aspects of Love* hits Basingstoke

VENUE: Now in preview at the Haymarket

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE 3

In Cardiff, Peter Donohoe is the soloist in Grieg's Piano Concerto

VENUE: Tomorrow at the St David's Hall

■ VISUAL ART

A ground-breaking collection of paintings by mental patients goes on show at the Hayward

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

BUNTY MATTHIAS & CO: Dance meets architecture in the company's new, full-length work, *Viewpoint*, accompanied by a soundtrack composed by Noel Watson. Two enormous interlocking staircases dominate a moving set in which the horizon and perspective shift with each movement of the eight dancers.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 8.30pm, tomorrow, 5pm and 8.30pm, Sun, 8.30pm.

NINE: The Arthur Kopit/Maury Yeston musical based on Fellini's *8½*. Larry Lamb plays the great director; among the women who bewilder him are Clare Burt, Eleanor David, Ria Jones, Sara Kestelman and Dilys Laye.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens December 12, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

WOMAD WEEKEND: The first London-based WOMAD (World of Music, Arts and Dance) festival, **Global Spirit**, takes place this weekend. Evening concerts, free foyer music, creative workshops and children's events all contribute to the festival's global village atmosphere. Among the highlights is the British debut performance of Isonga, Ballet of Rwanda.
Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891 for tickets and further information). Tonight-Sun. Ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

BASINGSTOKE: Andrew Lloyd Webber's romantic musical, **Aspects of Love**, previews tonight, with a gala performance tomorrow, and opens on Monday. The West End cast includes Kate Normington, Matthew Cammelle and Paul Bentley. Adrian Reynolds directs a reconceived production.
Haymarket, Wote St, Basingstoke (01256 465566). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 3pm. Until January 11. Ⓢ

BRISTOL: The French pianist **Anne Queffélec** gives the last recital this year in the Brahms & Liszt International Piano Series at St George's. Brahms was influenced by the music of Bach, whose Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue in D minor and Partita No 2 in C minor are played alongside Brahms's Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel.
St George's, Brandon Hill (0117-923 0359). Tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

CARDIFF: Wladimir Jurowski conducts the **Orchestra of the Welsh National Opera** in Grieg's music for *Peer Gynt* and the composer's dramatic Piano Concerto (soloist Peter Donohoe). Sibelius's patriotic *Finlandia* is followed by music from Khachaturian, Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky.
St David's Hall, The Hayes (01222 878444). Tomorrow, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

GLASGOW: Eight artists, including Christian Boltanski and Sophie Calle, attempt to redefine the way people look at society in an exhibition entitled **Imagined Communities**. This National Touring Exhibition from the Hayward Gallery in London uses a variety of media, including the internet, video, painting, sculpture and photography, to examine national, personal and cultural identity around the world.
Gallery of Modern Art, Queen Street (0141-229 1996). Opens today. Mon, Wed-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 11am-5pm. Until February 16

LONDON GALLERIES

British Library Galleries: Designer Bookbinders (0171-323 7111) . . **Chris Beetles**: The British Art of Illustration, 1780-1996 (0171-839 7551) . . **Christopher Hull**: David Lewis, Recent Paintings (0171-235 0500) . . **Kapil Jariwala**: Jade Jagger, Paintings (0171-437 2172) . . **The London Institute**: Top Marks Design (0171-514 6000) . . . **National**, Associate Artist: Peter Blake (0171-747 2885) . . **Royal Academy**: Living Bridges (0171-439 7438) . . **Tate**: Art Now: Nicholas Pope "The Apostles Speaking in Tongues" (0171-887 8000)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN**: Daniel Newman plays *Huck* and Clive Llewellyn is *Jim* in Mark Twain's masterpiece, adapted and directed by Matthew Francis, with the Mississippi somehow brought on stage.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Previews begin tonight, 7.45pm. Opens Dec 10, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until January 25

☐ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**: The Christmas shows at this theatre are among the very best in the country. Laurence Boswell directs this year's, with marionettes and automata staffing the Beast's palace.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Various times, 10.30am, 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 7pm. Until February 1

■ **BLINDED BY THE SUN**: Frances de la Tour, Duncan Bell and Douglas Hodge play scientists involved in a case of scientific fraud. Ron Daniels directs Stephen Poliakoff's play.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. In rep. Ⓢ

☐ **THE CHERRY ORCHARD**: Tremendous RSC cast, headed by Penelope Wilton, Alec McCowen and David Troughton, in a production by Adrian Noble considered the best in living memory.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

◪ **DICK DAREDEVIL**: Action hero of 1944 radio comes to life in the London of doodle-bugs and jitterbugs. Musical fantasy from Phil Willmott's Steam Industry, set in wartime Fitzrovia.
Drill Hall, Chenies Street, WC1 (0171-637 8270). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Tue-Sun, 7.30pm. Until January 18.

☐ **OLD WICKED SONGS**: Bob Hoskins plays a Viennese music professor teaching Schumann to an arrogant young pianist (James Callis).
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Tue, 2.30pm, and Sat, 4pm.

☐ **PLUNDER**: Second time lucky for Griff Rhys Jones in a Ben Travers farce at this venue (the night before he was due to open in *Thark* the place burnt down). With Kevin McNally, Sara Crowe.
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm.

■ **THE SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS**: Rubber-limbed Miltos Yerolemou plays the much-put-upon servant in Ted Craig's production of Goldoni's classic comedy.
Warehouse, Dingwall Road, East Croydon (0181-680 4060). Previews begin tonight, 8pm. Opens Dec 8, 5pm.

☐ **SHAKESPEARE FOR MY FATHER**: Lynn Redgrave uses Shakespeare to illustrate her emotions for her father, Sir Michael.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm. Ⓢ

◪ **WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?**: Diana Rigg and David Suchet in Howard Davies's powerful Almeida production of Albee's searing play.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.15pm

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . ☐ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)**: Criterion (0171-369 1737) . . ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner**: Duchess (0171-494 5070) . . ■ **Grease**: Cambridge (0171-494 5080) . . ☐ **Jolson**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . . ■ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) ■ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ◪ **Tommy**: Shaftesbury (0171-379 5399) ◪ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

A CHINESE GHOST STORY: Delirious mix of martial arts, horror comedy and ghostly antics: a cult success from the late 1980s, with Leslie Cheung. Director, Ching Siu-Tung.
NFT (0171-928 3232)

THE DAY OF THE BEAST (18): Priest tries to avert the Antichrist's birth. Satanic romp that eventually loses steam, from Spanish director Alex de la Iglesias. With Alex Angulo.
Metro (0171-437 0757)

FEELING MINNESOTA (18): Unappealing drama about two warring low-life brothers (Keanu Reeves and Vincent D'Onofrio). Director, Steven Baigelman.
Ritzy (0171-737 2121) **Virgin Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS** (15): Uneven comedy about a dysfunctional family, directed by Jodie Foster. With Holly Hunter and Robert Downey Jr.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen on the Hill** (0171-435 3366) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990)

◆ **JINGLE ALL THE WAY** (PG): Aggressively American Christmas comedy, with Arnold Schwarzenegger as a dad in search of a prized action toy. Director, Brian Levant.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

THE LAST OF THE HIGH KINGS (15): Pleasant coming-of-age saga set in Dublin, 1977. With Jared Leto and Catherine O'Hara. Director, David Keating.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **BRASSED OFF** (15): Yorkshire colliery band fights for survival. Sugary comedy with a few drops of vinegar. With Pete Postlethwaite, Tara Fitzgerald, Ewan McGregor. Director, Mark Herman.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0800-888 911) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

◆ **THE LONG KISS GOODNIGHT** (18): Preposterous, hard-driven action movie, with Geena Davis as an amnesiac government assassin. Director, Renny Harlin.
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **West End** (01426-915 574) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

◆ **MICHAEL COLLINS** (15): Action ousts politics in Neil Jordan's epic. With Liam Neeson as the Irish revolutionary, and Julia Roberts.
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** (0171-437 4343) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **THE VAN** (15): Fun and games with a burger van during the 1990 World Cup. Strident version of Roddy Doyle's novel, with Colm Meaney and Donal O'Kelly. Director, Stephen Frears.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

VISUAL ART: A fine show of work by psychiatric patients comes to the Hayward. Plus galleries

Very sane inside insanity

In 1919 the German psychiatrist Hans Prinzhorn set in motion major changes in the treatment of mental patients when he started to collect their art, a selection of which is on show at the Hayward Gallery.

The entire collection amounts to more than 6,000 works by patients of psychiatric hospitals throughout Europe. Included in the exhibition are paintings of pneumatic women and religious revelations, intricate drawings of mechanical inventions and ornamental decoration and photographs of sexual fantasy.

Prinzhorn's interest in such art was unique when he began working at the psychiatric clinic at Heidelberg University in 1919. He had a doctorate in art history and rescued the work from the diagnostic clutches of his colleagues, who regarded their patients' art as rubbish. Prinzhorn even wrote thank-you letters to some patients and gave them presents.

Such sensitivity was virtually unheard of in many lunatic asylums, where patients generally had to resort to drawing or painting on the back of envelopes, toilet paper, margarine cartons or scraps of cloth. But Prinzhorn wanted to make a name for himself. The collection was the basis for his book *Artistry of the Mentally Ill*, in which he related the patients' illnesses to their creations.

The book became a bible, not only for psychiatrists, but also for many artists, since Prinzhorn placed the importance of individual expression over the traditional beliefs of the art establishment. Consequently *The Miraculous Shepherd* by August Natterer, an electrician from Ravensburg, is reflected in a collage by Ernst, while the faces in the religious watercolours of August Klett, a wine merchant born in Heilbronn, inspired Emile Nolde in depicting apostles. Jean Dubuffet even set off to find other psychotic art in mental institutions himself.

But the response of such artists to the collection was a gift to the Nazis in their attempt to discredit modern art. Prinzhorn died from typhus in 1933 and Nazi doctors once again claimed that a "lunatic" could not be capable of real art. "Lunatic art" from the Prinzhorn collection was then hung side by side with work by artists such as Nolde and Klee to point up the similarities in an exhibition of Degenerate Art which made a four-year tour of Germany and Austria.

Worse still, a number of the "lunatic" artists were deemed incurables and dispatched for extermination. Among them was the businessman Josef Heinrich Grebing, from Magdeburg, whose collages — mixing watercolours and words, maps and magical symbols — might easily have been done yesterday; as might the handsewn jacket of Agnes Richter (origin and fate unknown), embroidered with autobiographical texts.

Surprisingly enough, perhaps because it was regarded as ridiculous, the collection itself survived the Nazis. In recent years, thanks to artists such as Georg Baselitz, it has been retrieved from obscurity, conserved and extended. Baselitz appears particularly influenced by the murderous crows and imbecile pheasants of the locksmith Johann Knopf. Like most inmates, Knopf, who died in an asylum in 1910, was diagnosed schizophrenic. Yet he managed to portray, on purloined scraps of office paper, an extraordinary draughtsmanship, imagination and an enduring sense of humour.

Untitled, by Karl Gustav Sievers, one of the 6,000 works found in Europe's asylums by Hans Prinzhorn

ALISON BECKETT

● Beyond Reason: Art and Psychosis *is at the Hayward Gallery, London SE1 (0171-928 3144) until Feb 23*

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

☐ THE tribe of artistic Pissarros has been numerous, though exactly how numerous is not immediately apparent: all Camille's five sons were artists in their own right, but Lucien is the only one to become well-known under the Pissarro name. Called Pissarro or not, they are all grist to the mill of the London art dealer David Stern, partly, no doubt, because he is married to one of Camille's great-grand-daughters.

The first family member to come up for individual scrutiny at Stern Art Dealers is **Ludovic-Rodo** (1878-1952), Camille's fourth son, who always dropped his surname for professional purposes. In every other respect, however, he proves to be a perfect second-generation Pissarro. Like Lucien he lived for some years in England, settling in Kent as a result of the First World War, and staying on until 1921. More important, he not only painted many English scenes, but fitted almost entirely into British art. Some of his oils of suburban and central London could come from the Camden Town Group; his rustic watercolours resemble Thomas Hennell.

Sometimes he was evidently a channel which brought French lightness and colour to English painting practice, sometimes he was on the receiving end of influence. Before England he went his furthest in the direction of Fauvism, and some of his highly coloured scenes in bars and cafés could easily be by Van Dongen. On the evidence of these paintings, drawings, prints and postcard pictures he stands high among artists of the second rank in serious need of reassessment.

Stern Art Dealers, 46 Ledbury Road, W11 (0171-229 6187), until Saturday

☐ TAKEN in ones and twos, the paintings of **Raoul Dufy** can be totally charming, summing up in their fresh colours and confidently sketched-in forms all that we mean when we talk about French style and chic. It is not wise, however, to see them in bulk: too much like trying to make a meal out of meringues. Dufy was primarily a decorative artist, so it is not surprising that his work is at its strongest when it does not assume the pretensions of easel painting.

The show of his Designs for Textiles is a revelation. As a painter he inclines to be repetitious and formulaic, but as a designer he is truly liberated. It was Poiret who first commissioned him to make designs for textiles in 1911. So impressive were Dufy's first experiments that in 1912 he was offered an exclusive contract with the textile manufacturers Bianchini-Ferier, who were to dominate the smart market throughout the Twenties.

Most of the designs in the show date from that period, and are dazzling in their variety and untrammelled invention. Dufy experiments: in one design he even produces a "City Lights" fantasia involving Chaplin, a streetlamp and an urban landscape, all wreathed in unwound film. He gave up textile design in the late Twenties and went back to painting. On balance it seems rather a pity.

Marina Henderson, 11 Langham Street, SW10 (0171-352 1667), until Dec 19

☐ THOUGH Cyril Farey (1888-1954) was an architect in his own right, he got somewhat led astray from practising architecture by his related brilliance as an architectural draughtsman and preparer of perspectives for others. The big bow-wow stuff in the Gallery Lingard show is undeniably impressive, and many other architects could regard Farey as their best advocate. But the exuberance in what he was sketching give the informal drawings a clear edge.

Walpole House, 35 Walpole Street, SW3 (0171-730 9233), until Dec 20

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

ART GALLERIES

PARKIN GALLERY 27Nov-20Dec WINTER EXHIBITION Modern British Xmas bargains 11 Motcomb St SW1 0171 235 8144

EVENTS

I trust you have had a magical event and a special thanks to Karen Wooll for choosing the time of clubs. regards Howard

EXHIBITIONS

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THEATRE

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THEATRE 1

Serious questions get the funny treatment in David Schneider's play, *The Eleventh Commandment*

THEATRE 2

... while the RSC curiously decides to revive Molière's misogynist satire, *Learned Ladies*

THE TIMES ARTS

MUSIC 1

The veteran singer Anna Tomowa-Sintow demonstrates staying power at the Wigmore

MUSIC 2

... while Yuri Temirkanov leads the Royal Philharmonic in an enchanting programme

THEATRE: A provocative first play from alternative comedian David Schneider; plus Molière revived by the RSC

Jewish jokes and tragedy

According to David Schneider's funny but tormented first play, the Eleventh Commandment runs like this: "Thou shalt not give any posthumous victims to Hitler." And according to the British-Jewish mother who dominates her estate-agent son and her bowed and almost speechless husband, this means ensuring that her descendants do not deviate an inch from the faith, the traditions or the blood of her forebears. To marry an outsider is to help to finish Hitler's work for him.

The Eleventh Commandment
Hampstead

Serious stuff, difficult stuff; and Sheila Steafel, playing a figure who might have been the merest caricature, sustains dignity and a certain gravity even when she is parading attitudes her author finds maddeningly extreme. Yet Schneider performs on the alternative-comedy circuit, and the overall tone of his play is humorous, in a stricken, surreal sort of way. After all, it opens with a winged angel in a dirty mac arriving at Abraham's Thirties suburban house in order to tell him to beget the Jewish nation into being.

But the opening scene also finds Schneider himself in a chair that has come either from *Mastermind* or Sing Sing, quivering helplessly as he is arraigned for being 30, single and childless. He himself plays estate-agent Dan as a goofy, toothy nerd desperately trying to escape a mother who fills his flat with plastic cartons of food and materialises in bed, wearing an overcoat and a sniffy expression, when he is trying to find sexual oblivion with a sexy shiksa.

The shiksa is Tracey Lynch's Christina, who comes of Ulster Protestant stock and gives Dan the character a chance of love and Schneider the playwright an opportunity to broaden his theme. In a climactic scene at (where else?) Ma's dinner table, the young woman gives a robust answer to the charge that she will stand aside while some future Nazi herds Dan into a cattle truck. She accuses her accuser of racism and Orange-style bigotry; and it is clear that she has her author's wary sympathy.

In effect, his play is asking the same questions about religious traditions and making the same plea for marital freedom as the Royal Court's current *East is East*, which concerns English Muslims. But Ayub Khan-Din's piece strikes me as less contentious than *The Eleventh Commandment*. Though Schneider maintains a respect for Dan's mother, he clearly thinks she is exploiting the Holocaust and obsessively playing the victim in order to control her son. The play, you feel, is the protest of one Jewish generation against another.

Again, this is edgy, tricky stuff; yet the piece also displays its Jewishness in its refusal to keep laughter at bay. The characters include a bumbling Moses, a Ghost of Christmas Past embarrassed to find himself in the wrong play, and two cops dedicated to "making sure that Jews remain Jews". I'm not saying that Schneider and his director, Matthew Lloyd, are wholly successful in reconciling serious ideas with comic situations; but together they have created a diverting and provocative evening.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER

And lo, there appeared an angel in a dirty mac: from left, James Clyde, Jeffrey Segal and David Schneider playing it for laughs

Girls don't just wanna have fun

THIS is a curious play to be given a major production at this time in the history of the world. Molière's ridicule of the intellectual ambitions of women has its place in the history of ideas, and the programme notes go to some pains to assure us that we do not have to see the play as an anti-feminist satire. But Molière introduces no female character who is not a) disguising her ignorance behind an inflated style of talk, or b) renouncing all interest in science, philosophy and literature because what a woman should do is devote herself to a man.

The Learned Ladies
Barbican Pit

This is not to say that Steven Pimlott's production, transferred from Stratford, contains no pleasures along the way. Philaminte, wife of the mild-tempered philistine Chrysale, has selected the self-satisfied, transparently trashy Trissotin (Roger Allam at his most unctuous) as her pet poet and is determined that he shall marry her younger daughter, Henriette (Jane Gurnett). The girl is in love with a decent chap who once courted her elder sister, Armande (Niamh Cusack), who may now be posturing as a learned young lady but is just a jealous woman at heart.

Alison Fiske is enjoyably absurd as Philaminte's sister-in-law Bélise, and John Quayle, in his first season with the RSC, is endearingly apologetic as Chrysale, the gentle worm that turns.

For some arcane reason Pimlott begins the play in costume and changes everyone into modern dress for the second half, presumably to suggest that we have these feminist posers with us today. At the close Caroline Blakiston's hitherto implacable Philaminte stares in dismay at the daughter whose proper care she has neglected and gazes at us as if for guidance. But what could we say to a woman who has been forcing unwelcome marriages on her children, and claims to have seen men on the moon?

JEREMY KINGSTON

Magical tour of toytown

WE WERE promised a "Magical Evening" for the Royal Philharmonic concert on Tuesday night — broadcast live by Classic FM — and that is exactly what we had. With Disneyland Paris the sponsors, it was wholly appropriate to have a programme of French music on the themes of childhood and enchantment. But there was magic, too, in the way these players delivered the goods.

After a period in the doldrums, the Royal Philharmonic has begun to transform itself once again into an elite body. The silky sheen of the strings is a precious asset, while both solo contributions and ensemble work in other departments impressed throughout the programme. Indeed, it was only a matter of bars into the first item, Ravel's *Mother Goose* suite, that the RPO strings, under Yuri Temirkanov, whisked us into a make-believe world of ravishing loveliness. Fauré's *Dolly* suite demands similar tenderness and received it here, with Temirkanov avoiding any hint of sentimentality with his well-sculpted phrasing.

CONCERT

RPO/Temirkanov
Barbican

In Bizet's *Jeux d'Enfants* suite the orchestra's virtuosity came to the fore. The cornet solos in the opening March were crisply delivered by Gerry Ruddock and Brian Thomson, while the spinning top of the "Impromptu" displayed admirable ensemble playing.

One of Temirkanov's great talents is that of an entertainer, and there was dry wit in his account of Dukas's *Sorcerer's Apprentice*.

Ravel's *La Valse* evokes the world of the Straussian waltz, only to whirl it in a vortex of post-First World War angst. Temirkanov and his players were suitably alluring in their Viennese garb, making the final descent into chaos all the more chilling.

BARRY MILLINGTON

RECITALS: A long-delayed, exuberant debut, and a tribute to a kindly critic

Free as a songbird

HAVING waited for at least 50 years to make her Wigmore Hall debut, the great soprano **Anna Tomowa-Sintow** doubtless felt free to celebrate the occasion exactly as she pleased. At the fourth or fifth encore — I lost count — her pianist Helmut Oertel was unceremoniously pushed aside, and the great glittering powder-blue presence sat at the piano and accompanied herself with abandon in one of several impassioned folksongs, presumably from her native Bulgaria.

This gesture came as the natural climax to an evening of characteristically expansive performance. Tomowa-Sintow's unaffected rapport with an audience showed itself immediately in an introductory group of Tchaikovsky songs — and then came Brahms. The voice has lost none of its power over the years; though its potency is now more than ever an emotional one. With a little of its natural bloom faded, and its sureness of intonation occasionally faltering, the voice refuses to sacrifice ardour for mere accuracy.

Some slight hardening in the extremes of her vocal register was moderated by brightly animated words, and by the fingers of Oertel, whose nuances of colour in songs as different as Brahms's *Sonntag* and Richard Strauss's *Morgen* was eloquently supportive. Tomowa-Sintow is one of this century's great Strauss interpreters: her Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier* was vividly recalled in *Freundliche Vision*.

Those, like me, who remember **Peter Stadlen**, who died earlier this year, as the unfathomable chief critic of *The Daily Telegraph* and a kindly senior colleague, teasing one's callow critical responses in pungently Viennese tones, knew only a fragment of the man.

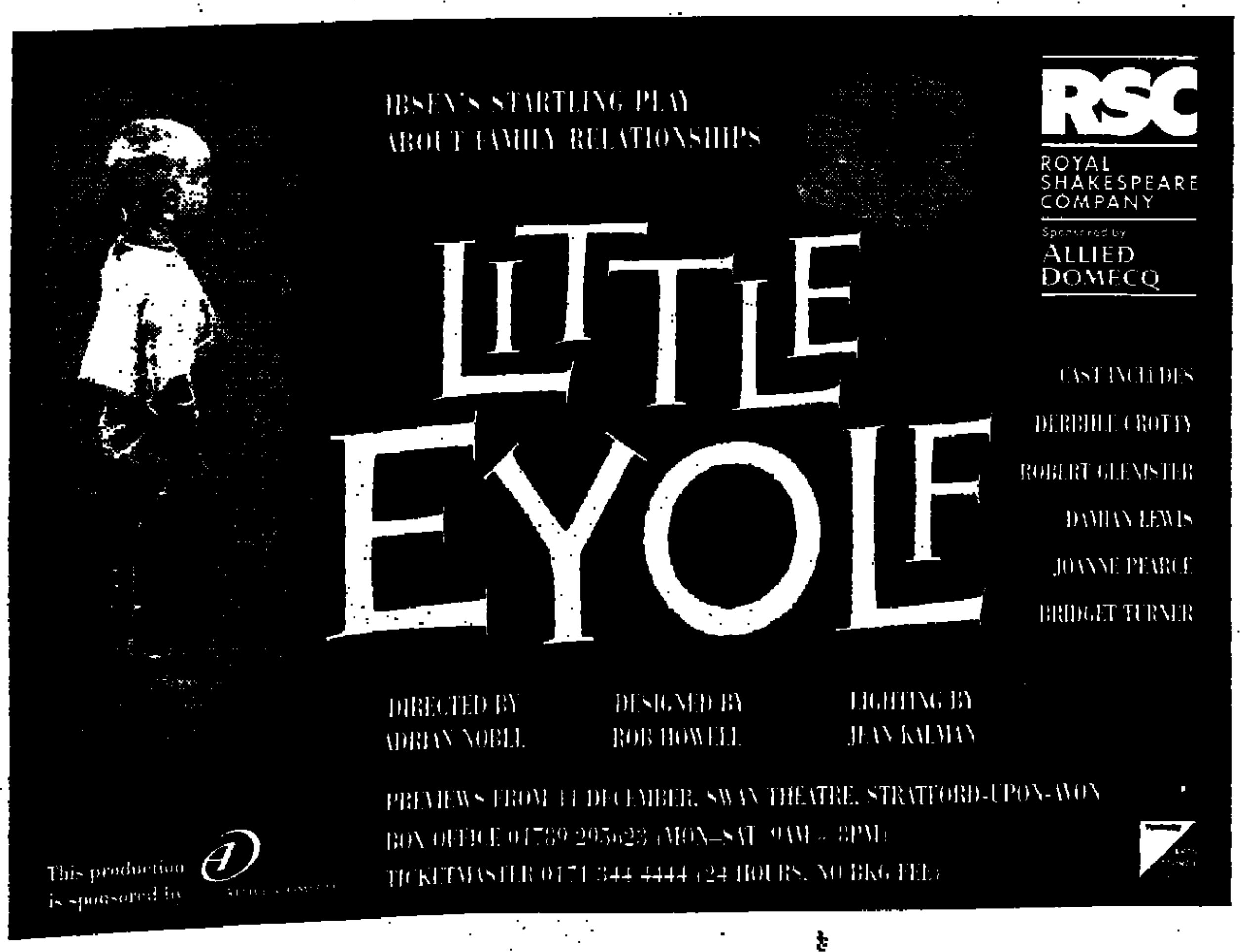
He was also the pianist who had studied with Webern and shared the concert platform with Kathleen Ferrier. This, too, was the man who fled to England in 1939 only to be transported to Australia where, in his internment camp, he put on a performance of Handel's *Israel in Egypt*. His life was celebrated on Tuesday in a Wigmore concert organised by the Anglo-Austrian Music Society.

He was never one to give his audiences or his readers an easy ride. True to form, this concert began with the relay of an uncompromisingly dense talk he had given on Radio 3 in 1980 in which he described Webern's own instructions on the playing of his *Variations* Op 27. Stadlen had premiered the work in 1937, and his recorded performance from 1948, together with his words, revealed Webern as, deep down, an incorrigible old Romantic.

Stadlen-as-critic would, I suspect, have admired young Christoph Berner's way with Schoenberg. The Viennese pianist gave a lucid and affecting account of the Three Piano Pieces, Op 11. Berner's performance of Beethoven's last piano sonata, which ended the concert, was also something of a revelation: it had a fearless strength of purpose, and a clear-sighted vision which only just stopped short of the sublime.

Song was at the evening's heart: Berg's Three Early Songs and a group of eight by Schubert. Stadlen would have been delighted to witness Imogen Cooper, daughter of his senior colleague, Martin, as the eloquent accompanist to the young mezzo-soprano Jane Irwin whose voice is, as yet, more focused than her Lieder interpretations. Stadlen would doubtless have offered a word of kindly advice. His words, his music-making and his spirit live on.

HILARY FINCH



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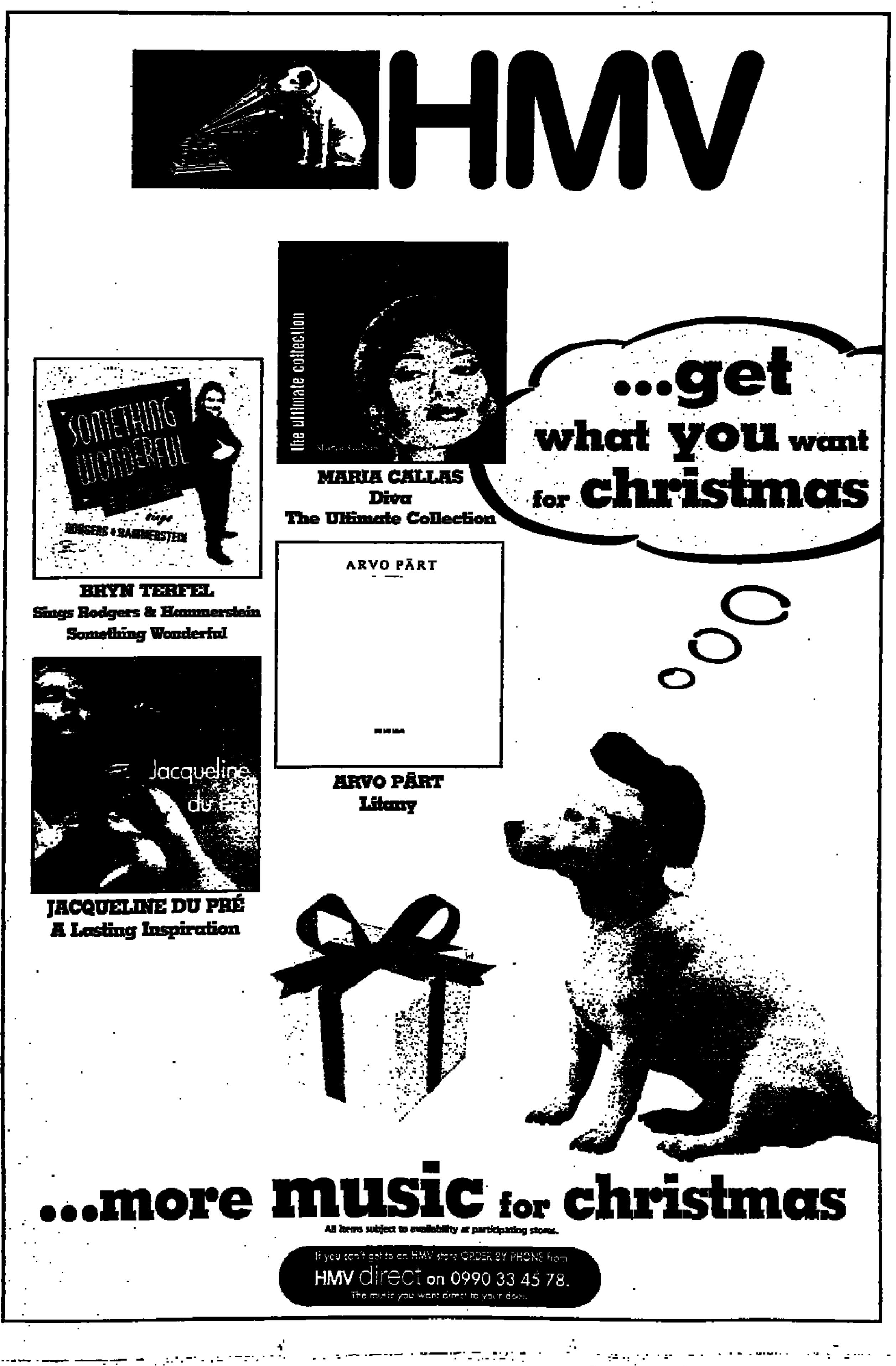

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■ POP 1

Oddballs from Buckinghamshire, but at least Tiger offer something that isn't derivative

■ POP 2

... while Judie Tzuke, the one-woman record industry, excels on *Under the Angels*

THE TIMES ARTS POP

■ POP 3

... but The Hoax stray off course with *Unpossible*, after the bluesy promise of their first album

■ POP 4

... and Björk offers a cold and unmemorable exploitation of the remix market with *Telegram*

The first Noël that isn't more like Liam

Good news for lovers of good music – just for once, you do not have to hibernate this cool yuletide

Have you done your Christmas shopping yet? You have? So you'll have heard *I Wish it Could be Christmas Every Day* quite a lot, then. And *Merry Xmas Everybody*. And *Rockin' around the Christmas Tree* — not the old, annoying version, but the horrid, faux-wacky version by Mel Smith and Kim Wilde, replete with "off-the-cuff" remarks and that ultra-depressing bit where it all stops, and then starts again.

Given the plague-like prevalence of these records, you will doubtless be longing to purchase a large truck, drive the length and breadth of Britain collecting every single pressing in existence, before dumping them in a large pit, covering them in brandy, dropping a match, and watching them burn blue and red and melted. There would then follow a period of insane, pagan celebration, followed by an almost post-coital calm, as the realisation sinks in that Top Shop and Woolworths are now safe to enter once again, free from "jolliness" and anything approaching a singalong.

Christmas records seem designed to bring out the Scrooge in everyone. Any record even vaguely associated with Christmas has had the bloom of joy rubbed off it, as you are forced to listen to it against your will. At office parties, already too drunk to salvage your promotion; in over-crowded pubs, sitting cramped and silent among all the bacchanalian abandonment; while fighting your way around shops full of rioting consumers, all buying bathcubes for people they hate; in the background, while your extended family issues divorce proceedings over the pudding. I doubt there is a single person in Britain who has come home from work and put on, by choice, *Lonely this Christmas*, by Mud. We all *hate* Christmas records. We just haven't realised yet that we do.

What is needed are new Christmas songs, reflecting what Christmas really invokes in us. A couple of albums full of vague melancholy; drunken self-pity; relief that you've got a week off work; insane hope that it might snow; a nagging feeling that believing in God might actually make you happier; and indigestion. Luckily, the more interesting record shops will be able to supply you with records that fulfil all these needs. You could start with *Just Say Noël* (Geffen Records), which surprises you with the revelation that indie-country music is astonishingly Christmassy. Portions of the royalties go to charity, which makes *Just Say Noël* the ideal thing to spend your bread-sauce money on. Because, admit it, bread sauce is horrible.

CAITLIN MORAN

The album includes the delights of the Posies' pedal-steel racked *Christmas* (made all the more heartbreaking by guestwailing from Velocity Girl's Sarah Shannon), which recalls the darker, twangier moments of *Out of Time*. Further in, Remy Zero do that country-misery thing on their *Christmas* to deliriously weepsome effect. Elastica's brooding *Gloria* is carol singing with flick-knives and bovver boots; while Beck's *The Little Drum Machine Boy* admirably replicates the queasy pride one feels after existing purely on fun-sized chocolate bars for three days.

Of course, the original Christmas songs — carols — understood the yuletide mixture of party joy and terrified, doomed misery perfectly. *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, *The First Noël*, *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* and *Away in a Manger* are some of the most beautiful, throat-swelling songs in existence, and the edgy mania in *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* predated the paranoid euphoria of *(What's the Story) Morning Glory?* by a hundred years.

The other great thing about carols is that they suit women's voices far better than most pop or rock, something New York's Roches understand. Three sisters who harmonise like angels cover all the above-mentioned carols, plus 20 others, on *We Three Kings* (MCA). The title track is lushly gothic, augmented with a tender oboe and, yup, restless country guitars. The swooning "Oooohh" that leads up to the chorus is utterly thrilling, and knocks *Mary's Boy Child* by Boney M into an annoyingly cheerful Santa hat.

Cats that got the cream: Tiger have a moral advantage by owing no dues to the great names of the past, but what on earth are they on about?

New stars of a rare stripe

TIGER
We are Puppets
(Trade2/Island 524 316 £9.99)

AT LAST, a new British group that does not immediately remind you of an old British group. Having contrived to make a debut album with no obvious Beatles or Bowie influences and using no specific punk, pop or rock act's sound as a blueprint, Tiger have already won a rare moral victory long before the question "Are they any good?" rears its ugly head.

The downside of such resourcefulness is that, without any of the familiar reference points, it takes a few hearings to latch on to what the five-piece from Buckinghamshire are all about. Their untutored, low-fi approach, which involves lashings of heavily fuzzed guitar and a lot of whooping and yelping, produces its best results on pop/dance crossover tracks such as *My Puppet Pal* and *Sorry Monkeys*.

Another piece of the jigsaw that refuses to slot into the obvious place is the decidedly oddball lyrics. In *Shamed all Over*, Dan Glaister puts a typically eccentric spin on the old theme of boy/girl communication breakdown: "She's a Belgian and I can't even spell her name/Whoa, yeah, and she can't understand me."

It is almost as hard to work out what Tiger are driving at, but at least it is different, and it sounds like fun.

JUDIE TZUKE
Under the Angels ...
(Big Moon BM 001)

JUDIE TZUKE has bravely taken to running her career as a cottage industry. The English singer with a voice like cool honey enjoyed a peak of popularity with her 1979 hit single *Stay With Me Till Dawn*, which was followed by a string of Top 20 albums. Now she has started her own mail-order record label and, as well as being the principal artist, it seems she is also head of press and promotions and chief packer. As a result, *Under the Angels ...* is available (£13.50) from PO Box 347, Weybridge KT13 9WZ or on the Internet at http://www.bogo.co.uk/pax/

However, anyone who imagines that musical corners may have been cut in the process will be pleasantly surprised. Tzuke seems to have poured herself into the task, heart and soul. Whether expressing regret and even extreme bitterness, as on *I Never Liked the Way you Looked*, or in the grip of an emotional panic attack (*Without Love*), there is a simple honesty about her words that complements the soft-focus arrangements of her lullaby-rock songs.

THE HOAX
Unpossible
(Code Blue/East West 0630-16639 £15.49)

THE Hoax were something of a novelty back in 1994 when they burst out of Wiltshire with a debut album, *Sound Like This*, that updated the high-voltage, blues-rock sound of the late Stevie Ray Vaughan. *Unpossible*, the follow-up, finds them way off-course in an ambitious but misguided attempt to progress beyond their muso roots and create an album with a broader commercial appeal.

Thanks to songs such as *Let it Ride* and *Got it Bad*, which mix road-hardened rock riffs with whimsical touches of progressive funk, they now sound like a poor man's version of the Spin Doctors. The impression is reinforced by various bite-sized nuggets of pseudo-Zen philosophy clumsily inserted into lyrics such as *Emperor's New Clothes*: "You can see the cherry on top/So you're gonna lose a slice of the cake". On heavier tracks it simply sounds as if they have been listening to too many Robin Trower albums. What the Hoax need is less of the twitchy tempo changes and almost-pop tunes, and a return to the driving 12-bars that got them started.

BJÖRK
Telegram
(One Little Indian TPLP51 £12.99)

HALFWAY between a vanity project and a cash-cow, the remix album is a questionable exercise at the best of times. On *Telegram*, the brief is to transport a bunch of previously released songs, most of them from this year's *Post* album, into an alternative electronic reality. Even allowing for the inclusion of acoustically re-recorded versions of *Hyperballad* (with the Brodsky Quartet), *Isobel* and *My Spine*, the result is a cold, detached and resolutely unmelodic collection of doodles masquerading as an album.

In its most extreme form, as with the distorted, random percussion effects which dominate the Further Over the Edge Mix of *Enjoy*, the process can render the number virtually unlistenable.

DAVID SINCLAIR

1	(What's the Story) Morning Glory?	Oasis (Creation)
2	Stoosh	Skunk Anansie (One Little Indian)
3	Spiders	Space (Gut)
4	Post/Telegram	Björk (One Little Indian)
5	Very Best Of	Buddy Holly (Dino)
6	Definitely Maybe	Oasis (Creation)
7	Garage Flower	Stone Roses (Silvertone)
8	Coming Up	Suede (Nude)
9	Backstreet Boys	Backstreet Boys (Jive)
10	Ugly Beautiful	Babybird (Echo)

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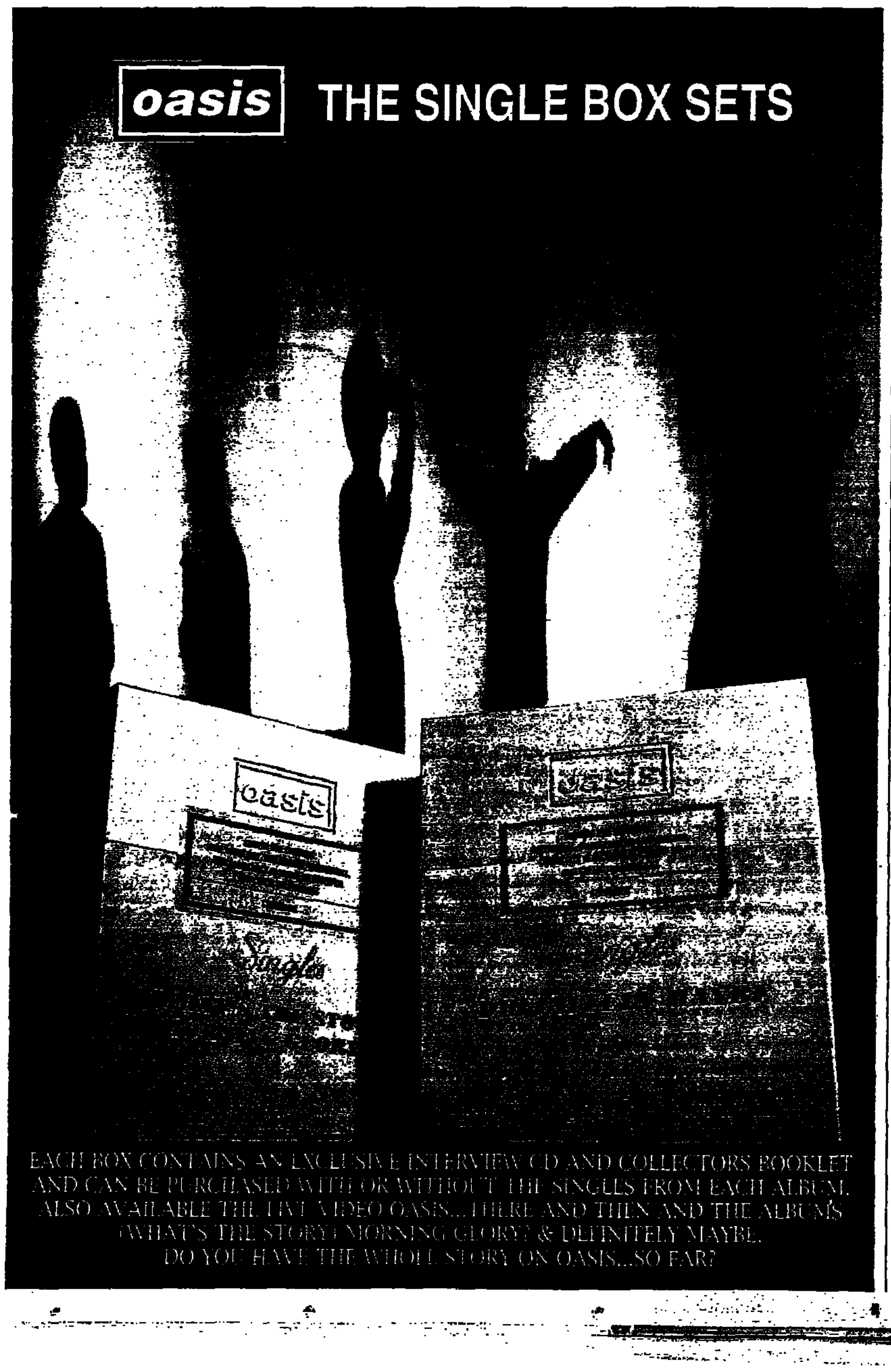

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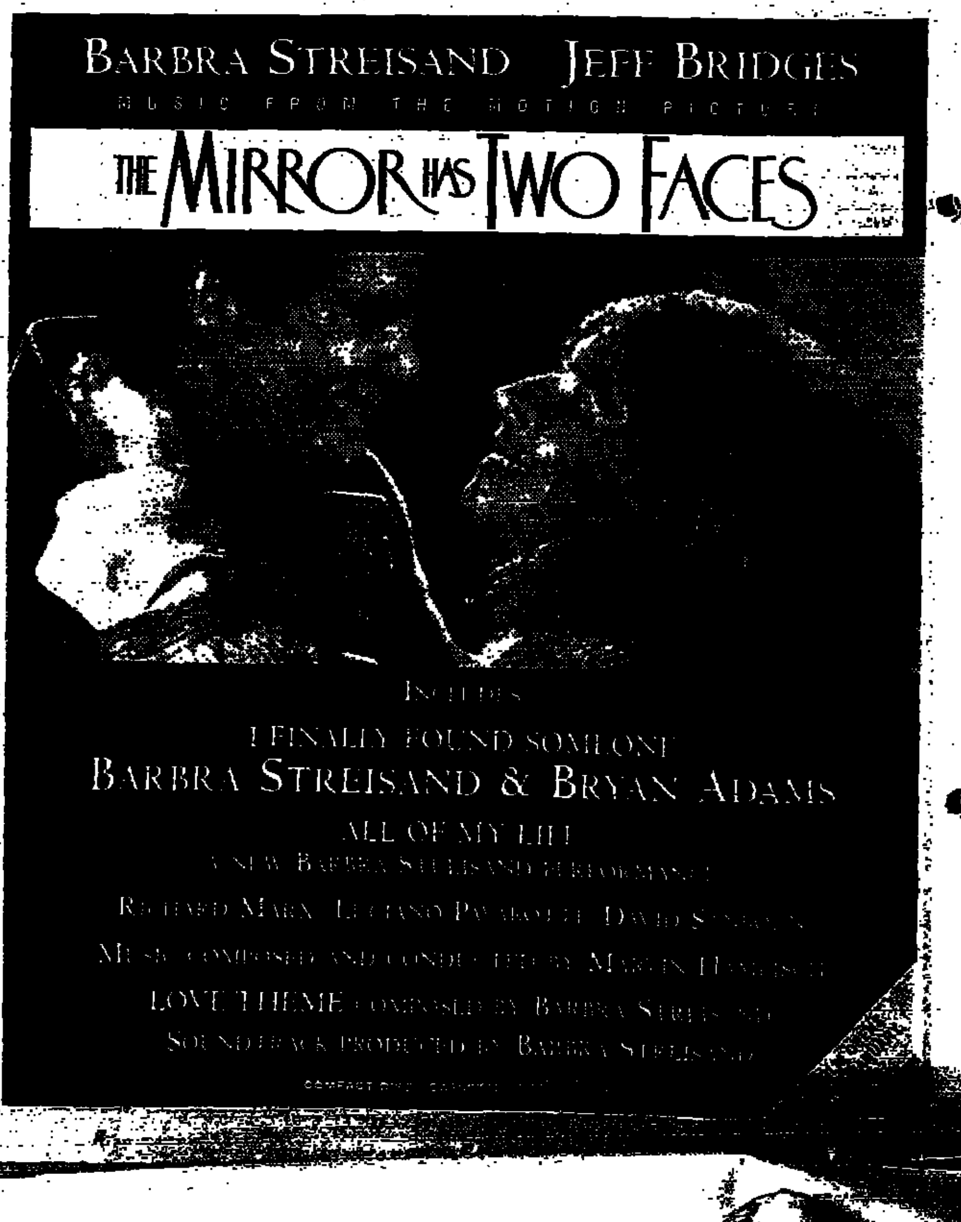

BARBRA STREISAND JEFF BRIDGES
MUSIC FROM THE MOTION PICTURE
THE MIRROR HAS TWO FACES

INCLUDES
I FINALLY FOUND SOMEONE
BARBRA STREISAND & BRYAN ADAMS
ALL OF MY LIFE
A NEW BARBRA STREISAND PERFORMANCE
RICHARD MARX LUCIANO PAVAROTTI DAVID SANBORN
MUSIC COMPOSED AND CONDUCTED BY MARVIN HAMLISCH
LOVE THEME COMPOSED BY BARBRA STREISAND
SOUNDTRACK PRODUCED BY BARBRA STREISAND

هكذا من الاهل

■ POP 5

Miss Ross turns on the charm: Queen Diana sets out to woo Britain all over again

■ POP 6

The gangsta-rap of Snoop Doggy Dogg is outclassed as Wembley enjoys a night of black American music

THE TIMES ARTS POP

■ JAZZ 1

John Zorn delves into Yiddish *klezmer* music for inspiration on his fine new album *Masada*

■ JAZZ 2

. . . while the Mike Westbrook Band draws fruitfully on many traditions on *Bar Utopia*

Beauty and the beast

LIVE GIG

Super Jam 1
Wembley Arena

AN event such as *Super Jam 1* would once have found its natural London home at the old Hammersmith Odeon. Clutching my crampons and mint-cake for the climb to row W on the eastern face of Wembley Arena, I noticed empty seats and wondered if this impressive black music package had over-reached itself. But Wednesday's unfilled spaces had more to do with under-promotion than punter indifference, and last night's second arena show, the first to be announced, was a sellout.

Early signs from the stage were not encouraging, as New York soul sisters SWV appeared with a 33 per cent reduction in staff, Leanne Lyons having suffered a family bereavement. Recalling their most cited influences, this meant we were now down to the equivalent of Diana Ross and one Supreme. Still, Tamara Johnson and Cheryl Gamble gave an undiluted performance of upperclass urban hits such as *Right Here* and *You're the One*.

The stage reset with admirable speed, the stakes were immediately upped by Blackstreet, whom producer Teddy Riley has crafted into the most fully rounded R&B group of the day. They opened with a theatrical *Fix* from the outstanding album, *Another Level*. As on their last visit (two years ago, to dear old Hammersmith), Blackstreet invited favourable comparisons with the likes of the mighty Temptations. The breakthrough single *No Diggity* was boldly delivered and ecstatically received.

All of which soulful stuff left Snoop Doggy Dogg out on a limb as the incongruous gangsta-rapping bill-topper. Tracks from his new US No 1 album *Tha Doggfather* were to the fore, with guest appearances by fellow stars Warren G and Nate Dogg. Nothing much to change the image of *gangsta-rappers as overpaid* braggarts wandering around the stage shouting and swearing, but that, it seems, is what the audience wants.

PAUL SEXTON

CHRIS HARRIS

Call me Miss Ross: Diana Ross likes to keep a tight rein on what she does in her career and how she is represented in public — "You can get a reputation from asserting yourself, but . . ."

Why Diana still reigns Supreme

Alan Jackson
falls under the irresistible spell of the favourite diva of pop-soul

Like most of the rest of us, Diana Ross is fretting about being behind in her preparations for Christmas. "I managed to get to Harrods," she confides, "but it was so noisy that I could only stay a short while — my ears are very sensitive. Yet I need to get organised, and I could never let someone else do my shopping."

Certainly, her schedule while briefly in London is so tightly *packed that you feel almost* apologetic for being a part of it. "But we're here for a reason, so it's OK," she beams, not needing to add that the reason is to sell a new single, and to support a recently released compilation album of earlier ballad hits. And experience must have convinced both her and her record company of the wisdom of treating us to the full-on Diana experience.

Bring her in to guest, glamorously begowned, on certain key television variety slots — Des O'Connor's *show has proved particularly lucky* — and, bingo! Suddenly, songs too subtle normally to win daytime radio-play become chart-toppers.

Britain's love affair with pop-soul's first ever diva has endured partly because she has consistently matched our fantasy of how such an entity should look, partly because her light and fluid voice has been able to adapt to changing musical fashions, and partly because she has, by her own admission, "somehow always been a magnet for good songs". The cumulative effect of this triple-whammy allows Ross, now 52, still to compete here in a marketplace dominated by female singers of a very different stylistic persuasion — the vocal showboaters for whom technique is all.

"I admire the girls who can do it," she insists. "But you need an incredible set of pipes to carry off that sort of riffing, to play around with the notes in that way, and it's not the way for me to sell a lyric to an audience. When I first started singing, I had a really small, nasal-sounding voice, and though it's matured as I've matured, I know that I've been lucky just to have *always had some distinctive quality* that has allowed people to recognise me. 'Like most popular singers, I've never studied music. And I certainly never think about technique."

This apparently sincere self-assessment, and her consistently friendly manner, are at odds with the imperious and temperamental star of media legend — she who not only must be obeyed, but also addressed always as Miss Ross. She sighs. Yes, she has felt misrepresented. Yes, it is like finding oneself turned into a cartoon. "And for a while it hurt, but now I accept it. It's strange how easily negative labels are attached to women who want to exert control over their own careers or take responsibility for how they're represented."

> ❝ Like most popular singers, I've never studied music ❞

And that is exactly what she wants. Her children are the chief priority, she says: eldest daughter Rhondda, 25, from a relationship with Ross's first mentor, Motown founder Berry Gordy, is an aspiring jazz vocalist; sisters Tracee and Chudney, 23 and 21, from a first marriage to press agent Robert Silberstein, also have showbusiness aspirations; sons Ross, nine, and Evan, eight, from her current marriage to Norwegian businessman Arne Naess, live with her on a Connecticut estate and in New York, where she plans her work commitments around their school lives. "But after all of that, I look to be in control of my own work. And sometimes that means saying, 'No, I just can't sing that song'. You can *get a reputation from asserting* yourself like that, but . . ."

Ross shrugs her shoulders to dissociate herself from such negative thoughts. She prefers positivity. "I'm an ideas-orientated person. I'm always working on lots of things at once. I want to live my life, to use it up. I read educational or inspirational works. And I make time every day to sit and be quiet. You have to make the space to recharge."

There is an essential pragmatism to her, though, an acceptance of the *fact that even positive thinking and* inspirational texts cannot influence every aspect of her life. For example, while she remains a consistent hitmaker in Britain, she does not attempt to rationalise why her American chart career has long been dormant. Also, despite an Oscar-nominated movie debut as Billie Holiday in *Lady Sings The Blues*, she acknowledges that this parallel career has not gone entirely as she would have hoped. "For years, I walked around Hollywood with the Josephine Baker story, but couldn't make it happen. Eventually I had to let go."

But right now, it is time for her close-up. "Photo sessions don't work for me unless there's music — it brings me alive," she says, rising from her chair, a supertoned, supercharged figure in Donna Karan black. As she diverts back to her hotel room in search of a suitable tape, passing staff-members step aside and bow. Even when experienced fleetingly, Ross's diva effect proves an impossible act to resist.

● *The compilation album* Voice of Love *is available on EMI. A new single,* In The Ones You Love, *is released on Monday*

Using their religion

JAZZ RECORDS

JOHN ZORN
Masada
(DIW-915)

THE speediest way of locating the music on this consistently vibrant and challenging album is to describe it as *klezmer* — traditional Jewish music with its roots in Eastern Europe — filtered through early acoustic Ornette Coleman. John Zorn, *often cited as* the archetypal jazz post-modernist for his restless, channel-hopping eclecticism, here focuses his attention firmly on a single musical subject, described in the album's dedication to Zionist pioneer Asher Ginzberg as a "new Jewish cultural renaissance".

The resulting 11 Zorn compositions, whether superficially jaunty dances or graceful, *plangent laments, bring out* all the considerable musicality of his quartet — trumpeter Dave Douglas, bassist Greg Cohen and drummer Joey Baron — but, more importantly, they dramatically emphasise the cogency of claims made by figures as diverse as Britain's Klezmer Swingers and the American avant-garde clarinettist Don *Byron concerning the continuing* relevance of the Jewish roots of jazz.

KEITH JARRETT
Mysteries: The Impulse Years 1975-1976
(Impulse! IMPD-4-189)

FEATURING the celebrated pianist's American quartet in two marathon (contract-fulfilling) recording sessions sandwiching the same band's more famous ECM recordings, *Survivors' Suite* and *Eyes of the Heart*, this intriguing four-CD set documents both the extraordinary rapport of saxophonist Dewey Redman, bassist Charlie Haden and drummer Paul Motian with Jarrett, and — just as absorbing — the tensions that precipitated the band's demise.

At its best, the quartet produced irresistibly joyous music in which Jarrett's vigorous lyricism was tellingly counterbalanced by the freedom Redman and Haden had exploited in their time with Ornette Coleman's groundbreaking acoustic band. Towards the acrimonious end of the group's life, however, the lightly dancing Jarrett themes had been replaced either by Motian's free-floating compositions or by Redman's strongly Coleman-influenced pieces, and the romanticism so prominent in Jarrett's solo work was submerged in the resultant democratic free-for-all. As a study of both musical and personal group interaction, *this is a fascinating and richly* rewarding set.

MIKE WESTBROOK ORCHESTRA
Bar Utopia
(ASC CD13)

COMMISSIONED by the 1995 Bath International Festival, with lyrics by short-story writer Helen Simpson, this seven-part meditation on various aspects of the Utopian vision is the latest in a series of *projects by composer/pianist* Mike Westbrook and singer Kate Westbrook.

Their intelligent use of text to draw together music from all parts of the tradition not only enables a big band to show off its superb ensemble and solo skills, but also confirms the Westbrooks' status as Britain's leading practitioners in a somewhat *neglected sub-genre: jazz-cabaret.* Thus the blues, Latin rhythms, straightforward swing and a climactic New Orleans-type free-for-all are all woven, courtesy of Simpson's deceptively simple lyrics and Mike Westbrook's elegant score, into a coherent, thought-provoking but readily accessible whole.

BOBBY PREVITE
Too Close to the Pole
(Enja ENJ-9306 2)

THE latest in a series of adventurous, bright and accessible albums from the New York-based drummer, *Too Close to the Pole* features the current edition of Bobby Previte's septet Weather Clear, Track Fast on five Previte originals and a stately arrangement of *The Countess's Bedroom* from Tchaikovsky's *Queen of Spades*.

Previte's compositions stress textural variety and the slow journey towards bustling climaxes over jazz's conventional theme-solos-theme structure, but fans of everything from avant-rock through minimalism to the woozy rumbustiousness of Charles Mingus will find something to their taste in this heady brew of spurting solo horns, rowdy but smart ensemble work and chattering percussion.

CHRIS PARKER

Our Price Christmas Dilemmas – No.1.
I'M SO WORRIED ABOUT GRANDAD'S XMAS PRESENT, I JUST CAN'T SLEEP.
DO YOU THINK GRANDAD'S GOT OASIS?
EH.......WHAT?
DON'T WORRY LOVE, OUR PRICE WILL BE HAPPY TO REPLACE IT IF HE HAS.
ho ho ho
TRACK IT DOWN AT
our price

هكذا في الأصل

Court of Appeal

Law Report December 6 1996

Duty of care to parent company triable

Barings plc and Another v Coopers & Lybrand (a Firm) and Others

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment November 22]

Where a parent holding company claimed a direct relationship between it and the auditors of one of its overseas subsidiary companies, and specific facts were pleaded that a duty of care was owed by those auditors to the parent company, separate from any duty owed to the subsidiary as statutory auditors, that was a serious issue to be tried between the parties.

The circumstances showed the present was a proper case for service of proceedings out of the jurisdiction on the auditors.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the appeal of the fourth and fifth defendants, Khoo Kum Wing and S. J. Tan, against the dismissal by Mr Justice Chadwick (*The Times* August 13) of their applications to set aside service on them outside the jurisdiction of a writ issued by the plaintiffs, Barings plc, in administration, and Bishopscourt Ltd, in administration and provisional liquidation, formerly Barings Securities Ltd, and also issued against Coopers & Lybrand, Chaly Chee Kheong Mah and Po'ad Bin Shaik Abu Bakar Mattar, the first, second and third defendants. Leave to serve the writ out of the jurisdiction was granted by Master Barratt on January 23.

Mr Sydney Kentridge, QC and Mr Philip Sales for the fourth and fifth defendants; Mr Stanley Burnton, QC, Mr Rhodri Davies and Mr Richard Gillis for the plaintiffs; Mr Christopher Butcher for the second and third defendants; the first defendant was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT said that Barings, the English holding company of a group, was based in London and did not trade on its own account. The second plaintiff ("BSL"), an indirect subsidiary of Barings, although incorporated in the Cayman Islands, had its business based in London.

BSL and its subsidiaries conducted securities and futures trading. The plaintiffs had brought proceedings against their accountants, Coopers & Lybrand ("C&L"). The second and third defendants were Singaporean partners in Deloitte & Touche, the fourth and fifth defendants partners in Coopers & Lybrand Singapore ("C&LS"), a Singaporean firm associated with C&L.

Barings Futures Singapore Pte Ltd ("BFS"), an indirect subsidiary of BSL, and so of Barings, was incorporated in Singapore and traded on the Singapore International Monetary Exchange.

The plaintiffs in their action sought to blame their auditors for the collapse of the group on February 26, 1995, attributed to unauthorised and loss-making trading by Mr Nicholas Leeson, general manager of BFS between 1993 and 1995.

Before Mr Justice Chadwick the fourth and fifth defendants contended Barings had no good cause of action against them, and that even if it did, England was not the appropriate forum for the trial of the action. Because the action brought by the liquidators of BFS against C&LS in Singapore had since been stayed, C&LS no longer maintained their argument about forum.

His Lordship, having set out details of Mr Leeson's unauthorised trading, said that at no time during the audits of BFS's consolidation schedules, prepared for the purposes of the group accounts, did the auditors detect or report on the unauthorised trading or the losses in which it resulted.

On the contrary, those schedules showed BFS to be not only solvent but profitable: successive profit and loss accounts showed profits rising to £9.6 million at 1994 year end whereas they should have shown a loss of £180 million at that date; while the balance sheet then recorded assets of £15 million instead of liabilities amounting to £201.4 million.

The plaintiffs' claim was based on the duties of C&LS, as reporting accountants, were alleged to have assumed towards Barings in relation to the group accounts and to a particular transaction which C&LS reported to be a £50 million receivable due, not to BFS, but to BSL, whereas in fact it was a fiction of Mr Leeson's to explain a discrepancy in BFS's accounts caused by his unauthorised trading.

Mr Kentridge's essential submission was that C&LS owed to Barings no relevant duty of care and that any claim for damages suffered could be claimed, not by Barings as a holding company, which was in effect a shareholder in the subsidiaries, but only by the subsidiary or subsidiaries which suffered damage.

The information the Singaporean auditors were required to supply was simply so that Barings' directors could comply with their obligation to prepare consolidated accounts.

He contended, inter alia, that there was ample authority that, in so far as a company had suffered damage, although the value of the shareholders' shareholding had gone down, in law it was none the less the company alone which could sue for that damage: *Prudential Assurance Co Ltd v Newman Industries Ltd (No 2)* ([1982] Ch 204, 222G-223B) and *Caparo Industries plc v Dickman* ([1990] 2 AC 605, 626C-E, 627C-D).

Thus if Barings had been the direct shareholder of BFS, it would have had no action in respect of any assumed negligence in C&LS's auditing for BFS. The fact Barings was a relatively remote parent made its relationship to the auditors a more remote one.

Mr Burnton relied primarily on the facts as showing how a duty was assumed by C&LS directly to Barings. He added:

(i) The liability of C&LS to BFS was in dispute, particularly because C&LS signed off on their audit report to Barings but not on their audit report to BFS;

(ii) C&LS were engaged in relation to Barings in the production of group accounts for which their information and audit reports were to be used; and

(iii) BFS acted as broker or agent for other companies in the group.

Their losses were not recoverable from C&LS because no duty was owed.

As Barings was owed a duty, it could itself claim for the loss in the value of the shares in those companies: *George Fischer (Great Britain) Ltd v Multi Construction Ltd, Dexion Ltd (third party)* ([1995] 1 BCLC 260).

His Lordship said that if C&LS were in breach of a duty of care owed to Barings in respect of audit information supplied to them and the breach caused damage, Barings could not be disentitled from suing merely because the damages for which C&LS were said to be liable to Barings would or might include damages for which they were said to be liable to BFS.

Any risk of double recovery, such as was envisaged in *Christensen v Scott* ([1996] 1 NZLR 273, 280-281) could be avoided if both claims were made in the same action.

The present case differed from the *Prudential Assurance* case because the person in the position of shareholder, Barings, had a right of action independent of the company BFS. On the other hand, unlike the situation in the *George Fischer* case, BFS did have a right of action itself.

As the latter case showed, there was no legal principle that a holding company was unable to recover damages for loss in the value of its subsidiaries, resulting directly from a breach of duty owed to it, as distinct from a duty owed, or not owed as the case might be, to the subsidiaries.

The argument about duty of care was concluded by the fact that C&LS knew that their audit and report on the consolidation schedules were required so that the directors of Barings could comply with their obligation to provide accounts showing a true and fair view of the group's financial affairs.

C&LS could not have supposed that the only responsibility they assumed to Barings was to submit BFS's accounts in a form suitable for incorporation into the consolidated accounts, and that it mattered not whether they showed a true and fair view of BFS's financial affairs.

Material irregularities, and a fortiori fraud, would normally be brought to light by sound audit procedures, one of which was the practice of pointing out weaknesses in internal controls. An auditor's task was so to conduct the audit as to make it probable that material misstatements in financial documents would be detected. That did not occur and therefore there was a case for C&LS to answer.

The purpose of reporting was not as limited as Mr Kentridge contended. There was force in Mr Burnton's contention that the most immediate cause of Barings' loss was the failure of internal control within BFS which allowed Mr Leeson to commit his frauds.

Everything depended on whether C&LS should have detected those frauds since, had they been, further moneys would not have been sent by other companies in the group to BFS with the resultant loss in the value of the shares held by Barings as the holding company.

The crucial point in the present case, which Mr Justice Chadwick appreciated, was that Barings pleaded a direct relationship between C&LS and Barings arising from the circumstances in which work was done for, and information was supplied by C&LS to, Barings and their auditors in England (C&L) relating to the preparation of the group's accounts.

Specific facts were pleaded in support of the claim there was an independent and relevant duty of care owed to Barings and separate from any duty owed to BFS.

The determination of the scope of that duty and of the consequences of any breach were matters for evidence and legal argument at trial. As the judge had concluded, Barings had established a good arguable case, and his Lordship was satisfied the case was a proper one for service out of the jurisdiction. There was a serious issue to be tried.

His Lordship added that any findings of fact made in the judgment were not final.

Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Mummery agreed.

Solicitors: Herbert Smith; Slaughter & May; Wilde Sapte.

Court of Appeal

White finger injury risk foreseeable in 1973

Armstrong and Others v British Coal Corporation

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Judge and Lord Justice Waller

[Judgment November 28]

The British Coal Corporation should have recognised by January 1973 that work done by its employees using vibratory tools gave rise to a foreseeable risk of personal injury from the condition known as vibratory white finger.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by the defendant, the British Coal Corporation, from the decision of Judge Stephenson, sitting as a judge of the High Court at Newcastle upon Tyne on January 15, 1996, on preliminary issues arising in an action by William James Armstrong and eight other plaintiffs, all former employees of the defendant, claiming damages for personal injury for vibratory white finger sustained as a result of the alleged negligence of the defendant.

Mr Richard Maxwell QC, Mr R. F. Owen, QC and Miss Catherine Foster for British Coal; Mr John Hendy, QC, Mr Christopher Carling and Mr Ian Scott for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE said that the plaintiffs had all been employed for substantial periods in the coal industry and had been provided with and used vibratory tools in the course of their employment. The nine cases had been selected as lead cases, representative of a large number of claims that were pending.

Since 1911 it had been acknowledged that the symptoms, loss and impairment of circulation in the fingers, could result from the use of powered hand-held tools through which vibrations were transmitted. The condition, referred to in the case as VWF, included secondary Raynaud's phenomenon and Raynaud's phenomenon of occupational origin.

Two preliminary issues, heard together by the judge, arose:

1 From what date, if at all, ought the defendant to have recognised that work with the tools gave rise to a foreseeable risk of VWF? The judge's answer was January 1, 1973.

2 From what date, if at all, ought the defendant to have recognised that precautions to guard against that risk could and ought to have been taken? The judge's answer was January 1, 1975, in respect of warnings, system and routine examination and January 1, 1976 in respect of rotation of jobs.

The judge had held that the defendant should have been on notice that there might have been a problem of a significant incidence of VWF following the production of a survey on VWF as an industrial disease in the coal mining industry by Dr Milne, deputy area medical officer for North Yorkshire, in 1968.

Thereafter, the judge held, that with such notice the defendant should have conducted a epidemiological investigation among its employees and after making allowance for the years required to set up the investigation, then conduct it and evalauate its findings, the defendant would on the balance of probabilities have been provided with clear evidence that there was an unacceptable incidence of VWF consequent on work with such tools in the coal mining industry.

Mr Maxwell submitted that, having correctly concluded that prior to 1967 there was insufficient material to put the defendant on notice that there was a foreseeable risk of injury in the coal mining industry arising from the use of such tools, he was wrong in his conclusions about the Milne survey were wrong and that he should have held that an epidemiological survey by the defendant was never required, at any rate at any date before the present proceedings began in 1988.

Furthermore, Mr Maxwell said, even if an epidemiological survey had been carried out the judge wrongly concluded that it would have demonstrated an excessive degree of VWF in the coal mining industry.

In the circumstances there were no grounds for interfering with the judge's findings on the preliminary issues. Thus in the case of each plaintiff who was not caught by the cut-off dates the questions remaining open were:

(i) whether he suffered excessive exposure to vibrating tools:

(ii) whether the defendant negligently failed to take effective precautions to prevent, avoid or reduce such excessive exposure, and

(iii) whether he suffered occupational white finger in consequence of the defendant's negligence.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Waller agreed.

Solicitors: Nabarro Nathanson; Thompsons, Newcastle upon Tyne, Watson Burton, Newcastle upon Tyne, Hugh James Jones & Jenkins, Cardiff and Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield.

Basis of co-accused's rape guilty plea must be known

Regina v Manzur
Regina v Mahmood

Before Lord Justice Hobhouse, Mrs Justice Bracewell and Mr Justice Curtis

[Reasons November 28]

Where an application was made by the Crown under section 74 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 to admit a co-accused's plea of guilty to rape in evidence before the jury in the trial of co-defendants, it was essential for the trial judge, before granting that application, to know the basis upon which the plea had been made to enable him to identify the issue to which the plea was said to be relevant.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held when giving reasons for allowing appeals on November 21 by Nanah Manzur and Khalid Mahmood against their convictions in January 1996 at Stafford Crown Court (Judge Shand and a jury) of rape. The convictions were quashed and a retrial ordered.

Mr Michael Hutt for Manzur and Mr David Brock for Mahmoud, both assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals; Miss Rachel Brand for the Crown.

MRS JUSTICE BRACEWELL, giving the reasons of the court, said that it was alleged by the prosecution that the complainant had left a nightclub and had entered a car containing the two appellants and the co-accused, Clive Linton. The car was driven to a car park where within the space of an hour first Manzur, then Linton and finally Mahmoud had sexual intercourse with the girl.

She was described in evidence as arriving home drunk and dishevelled with her clothing torn. She was unable to recall the events of the evening in any detail and did not know whether or not she had consented to sexual intercourse.

At the trial the issue for the jury was whether the girl was incapable of giving her consent by reason of drink or whether, as the appellants alleged, she did consent or, alternatively, they believed she was consenting.

On appeal it was argued that the trial judge erred in admitting evidence before the jury of the plea of guilty to rape by Clive Linton under section 74 of the 1984 Act. He ruled that it was relevant to the question of consent by the complainant.

The difficulty with that ruling was that the basis upon which Linton had pleaded guilty was not before the court. There were several bases upon which Linton could have pleaded guilty: that he knew the girl was not consenting, or that he was reckless as to whether she consented.

There was also a lack of certainty regarding the girl's state of mind in her drunken state.

In their Lordships' judgment it was essential to know the basis for Linton's plea of guilty before the trial judge could identify the relevant issue for the jury in the trial of the appellants.

In the context of the Crown's position that the complainant was incapable of consenting, there was a real danger that the jury would have assumed that Linton's plea meant that he knew full well she could not have consented, and would have concluded that therefore the appellants must have known that also.

Such an approach by the jury would have precluded their consideration of the state of mind of each appellant which was highly relevant to their defence that they believed the complainant was consenting to sexual intercourse.

It was not possible to identify any issue to which Linton's plea was relevant at the time of the ruling and therefore the Crown's application should have been refused.

In the event the admission of the evidence was highly prejudicial to the appellants and wholly outweighed any probative value, if indeed any could be identified.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, South Staffordshire.

Time-limit sanction too severe a punishment

Letpak Ltd and Others v Harris

Before Lord Justice Waller and Sir John May

[Judgment November 8]

While the court was becoming less sympathetic in respect of applications for extension of time for service of documents, to deprive the applicants of a fair trial only by reason of their solicitors' failure to recognise the importance of the rules was too severe a punishment.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing an application by the plaintiffs, Letpak Ltd, Saleem Haboubi, Hashim Haboubi, Mumtaz Tokatly and Zuhair Tokatly, for leave to appeal against the refusal by Mr Justice Neuberger on October 30, 1996, sitting as an additional judge in the Queen's Bench Division, of their application for, inter alia, an extension of time for exchanging witness statements.

The application was treated as the substantive hearing. The effect of the judge's order would have been to dismiss and/or strike out the applicants' negligence claim against the respondent, Gabriel Harris, a solicitor, without a trial on the evidence.

The writ in the underlying action had been issued in February 1995 and the defence served in April. Directions had been given in July for the exchange of witness statements, the time limit for which had then been extended by agreement but not met. Trial had been set for November 1996 following a request by the respondent for security of costs.

The applicants' solicitors said that they would take instructions but nothing was done by either party outwardly to advance the matter until the applicants' solicitors wrote to the respondent the following year requesting a date to be agreed for discovery. The respondent replied that the applicants were well out of time for service and again requested security for costs.

Mr Peter Ralls for the applicants; Mr John Norman for the respondent.

LORD JUSTICE WALLER considered the relevant case law which had been before the judge, *Savill v Southend Health Authority* ([1995] 1 WLR 1254); *Costellow v Somerset County Council* ([1993] 1 WLR 256) and *Beachley Property Ltd v Edgar* (*The Times* July 18, 1996).

In the last case, the submission that unless there were some evidence of prejudice on the part of the defendant the court had no alternative but to allow the calling of evidence in relation to which the court order as to service had not been complied with was strongly rejected.

His Lordship said that the court could only interfere with the exercise of the judge's discretion if it concluded that he was plainly wrong. His Lordship considered that the judge had been persuaded that the wind of change which was blowing hard in the direction indicated by *Beachley* had in effect already changed the practice of the court laid down in *Costellow*. It was important to recognise that in *Beachley* the plaintiff was not denied a trial by excluding the statements served late. In the present case if the order remained the applicants would not be able to proceed.

Further, his Lordship said that any prejudice which would be suffered by the respondent could largely be negatived given that they had to bear some of the responsibility for deciding to sit on their hands rather than pursue the applicants to get on with providing security and exchange of statements.

His Lordship was doubtful as to the legitimacy of that tactic in the modern era of cooperation once a trial date had been fixed and directions given binding both parties.

In the circumstances, his Lordship was persuaded that the judge had been wrong; to deprive the applicants of a trial because of their solicitors' failure to recognise the importance of the rules relating to the exchange of witness statements was too stern a punishment.

His Lordship made clear that the wind of change was blowing fast and practitioners should be aware of the decision in *Beachley* and what a close run thing it had been in the present case.

Sir John May agreed.

Solicitors: Rawlence & Hart, Croydon; Barlow Lyde & Gilbert.

Scots Law Report December 6 1996 House of Lords

Financial provision between parties

Lightbody (or Jacques) v Jacques

Before Lord Mustill, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Steyn and Lord Clyde

[Speeches November 21]

An equal division of financial provision between the parties in divorce proceedings would be fair pursuant to section 9(1)(a) of the Family Law (Scotland) Act 1985, but where there were special circumstances some unequal division might be justified within section 10(1).

There was nothing in section 10 which required an unequal division whenever special circumstances were found to exist and it was, thus, not enough simply to identify some special circumstances in order to depart from an equal division. An unequal division had to be justified by those special circumstances.

However, the task of applying the Act and the working out of the details the matter must essentially be one for the judge at the first instance.

The House of Lords so stated in dismissing an appeal by the husband defender, Raymond James Jacques, from an interlocutor dated February 23, 1995, of the First Division of the Court of Session (the Lord President (Lord Hope), Lord Allanbridge and Lord Penrose) (1995 SLT 963), which had allowed an appeal of the wife pursuer, Catherine Anne Lightbody (or Jacques), and dismissed an appeal of the husband, recalled the interlocutor of Sheriff J. R. Smith of Dumfries and Galloway at Stranraer, dated December 24, 1993 and made an order as sought by the wife for the sale of the matrimonial home at Millbank, Main Street, Glenluce, Wigtownshire.

The sheriff had refused to grant decree of declarator and order for sale sought by the wife. He also refused to grant decree for transfer sought by the husband. He determined that an equal and fair sharing of the matrimonial home, could be achieved by making no order for any financial provision.

Section 9 of the Family Law (Scotland) Act 1985, provides: "(1) The principles which the court shall apply in deciding what order for financial provision, if any, to make are that — (a) the net value of the matrimonial property should be shared fairly and between the parties to the marriage. . ."

Section 10 provides: "(1) In applying the principle set out in section 9(1)(a) of this Act, the net value of the matrimonial property shall be taken to be shared fairly between the parties to the marriage when it is shared equally or in such other proportions as are justified by special circumstances."

"(6) In subsection (1) . . . 'special circumstances', without prejudice to the generality of the words, may include — (a) the terms of any agreement between the parties on the ownership or division of any of the matrimonial property; (b) the source of the funds or assets used to acquire any of the matrimonial property where those funds or assets were not derived from the income or efforts of the parties during the marriage; (c) any destruction, dissipation or alienation of property by either party; (d) the nature of the matrimonial property, the use made of it (including use for business purposes or as a matrimonial home) and the extent to which it is reasonable to expect it to be realised or divided or used as security; (e) the actual or prospective liability for any expenses of valuation or transfer of property in connection with the divorce."

Mr Andrew Hajducki, QC and Miss Morag Wise for the husband; Miss Anne Smith, QC and Mr John Speir for the wife.

LORD CLYDE said that the major item of matrimonial property was the house at Millbank which had been the matrimonial home. It was purchased by the parties for £30,000.

The source of the funds was the sale proceeds of a house which the parties had occupied together in Surbiton before their marriage on January 10, 1987, and for a short while thereafter.

By agreement between the parties the title to the house at Millbank was taken in their joint names. That house required certain repairs. Those were financed from the balance of the Surbiton funds and by a loan from the Clydesdale Bank.

On September 10, 1990, when the wife left the husband, the Millbank house was valued at £55,000. There was £5,000 still outstanding of the loan.

Before the House, the husband claimed that because of the existence of special circumstances the division of the net value of the matrimonial home should not be in equal shares.

His counsel argued that as a matter of construction of the Act there were special circumstances; thus it was contrary to the Act to divide the net value equally.

If special circumstances were found to exist then an unequal division fell to be made and it was for the court then to decide what unequal proportions were justified.

That argument was not sound. Section 10(1) gave direction on the meaning of fairness for the application of the principle set out in section 9(1)(a). It was not disputed that where there were no special circumstances an equal sharing of the net value would secure compliance with the principle of fairness.

The words "special circumstances" did not have any technical meaning but referred to any circumstances which were special to the case. Section 10(6) gave illustrations of what might be included. But that subsection stated expressly that the illustrations were given without prejudice to the generality of the words.

Moreover, in stating that the word "may" included the stated illustrations it was indicating that there was no necessary conclusion that any of the illustrations must require some unequal sharing.

The final part of section 10(1) required the court to consider if there were any circumstances special to the case which justified a departure from the general course of an equal division. If the matter was approached by a consideration of evidence it could be analysed in terms of a presumption for equality in the absence of any special circumstances justifying otherwise.

As a matter of construction it was sufficient to understand that in the ordinary course an equal division would be fair but that where there were special circumstances some unequal division might be justified. There was nothing in section 10 which required an unequal division whenever special circumstances were found to exist.

It was not enough simply to identify some special circumstance in order to depart from an equal division. An unequal division must be justified by those circumstances.

It was not disputed that the 1985 Act innovated on the earlier law in the field of financial provisions on divorce by imposing some restraints on what had been an unfettered discretion in the court.

The statement of principles in section 9 by which under section 8(2)(a) any order had to be justified together with the sections which followed upon those sections certainly imposed some constraints on the court's discretion but some areas remained in the application of the principles for the court to exercise its own judgment on the facts of the particular case so as to achieve a fair result.

But in the task of applying the Act and in the working out of the detail the matter must essentially be one for the judge who first heard the case: see *Little v Little* (1990 SLT 785, 787).

The husband's counsel argued in the alternative that the result which had been reached in the present case was manifestly inequitable. Looking at the circumstances as they had been presented before the House there were no grounds sufficient to justify any interference with the view taken by the First Division.

On that branch of the case the matters raised were points of detail and not of principle and it could not be held that any error had been made so gross as to warrant any alteration being made.

Lord Jauncey delivered a concurring speech and Lord Mustill, Lord Lloyd and Lord Steyn agreed.

Solicitors: Lawford & Co, Richmond for Lawford Kidd, Edinburgh; Gold Mann & Co for Steedman Ramage, WS, Edinburgh.

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BOXING

Hamed faces sternest test

By Srikumar Sen

NASEEM HAMED, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight champion from Sheffield, has the most important bout of his career when he meets Tom Johnson, of the United States, at the *London* Arena on February 8.

Johnson is the International Boxing Federation champion and if Hamed takes his crown it will be the first step on the road to unifying the titles. Hamed said yesterday that he did not expect Johnson to pose any problems for him and that he would knock him out. "It's a fight I've been wanting for ages," Hamed *said.* "Don't blink in round two".

Johnson, 32, is an ideal opponent for Hamed. He has been finding it more and more difficult to stay on his feet against opponents and he is an important enough name to enhance Hamed's reputation; but the veteran of 47 contests said that he is equally confident.

Johnson has lost only two of his contests and has made 11 successful defences of his title, five times in Europe. He reminded Hamed that he had beaten Manuel Medina despite breaking both his hands during the contest. Hamed had to struggle for 11 rounds to stop Medina, a Mexican.

Duke Durden, Johnson's adviser, said: "Hamed will fall in five rounds because he has no chin and it only needs Tom to catch him once."

The Hamed-Johnson bout heads a $9 million (about £5.45 million) promotion that will feature three other world title contests. Steve Collins, the WBO super-middleweight champion, and Robin Reid, the *World* Boxing Council champion at the same weight, will both defend their titles.

RUGBY UNION

Bravery of Reed wins favour with Scotland

By Mark Souster

AFTER two years in the wilderness, Andy Reed, the former British Isles lock forward, has been recalled to the Scotland squad for the Royal Bank international against Italy at Murrayfield a week tomorrow.

From the tone of the comments at a press conference yesterday there is every likelihood that Reed, now of Wasps, will win his eleventh cap, thus completing a successful comeback from debilitating injury that at one stage threatened his career.

The fact that Reed, still only 27, is again in contention can be attributed to his own determination, a move from Bath this summer and Scotland's urgent need for a more dominant force at the set-piece, in particular the lineout and at restarts, where the Scots have been particularly profligate: *He won the last of his ten caps* against South Africa in November 1994, having captained Scotland on the tour of Argentina that summer.

Reed is one of three changes to the 21-man squad originally picked for the Australia international; neither Gary Armstrong nor Scott Murray were considered because of injury, while Tom Smith's decision to play for Watsonians last Saturday when clearly unfit and unwell has counted against him, a fact acknowledged by Richie Dixon, the Scotland coach.

Derrick Patterson, of Heriot's FP, comes in as understudy to Bryan Redpath at scrum half, a position in which Scotland are blessed with considerable riches; not so at prop, where Matt Stewart, now under Ian McGeechan's wing at Northampton, is brought into the reckoning.

Stewart was the subject of positive reports on the Scottish Exiles' recent tour of Portugal and Spain, where he was watched by both John Jeffrey and Arthur Hastie, the manager.

Dixon said: "Stewart has been known to us for a long time. We have not had a punishing scrummage for some time, but somehow we have been able to perform miracles with what we have got. Andy Reed has a proven track record. He has had injury problems but we feel he is worthy of his place."

Scotland will award full caps for the first time in a match against Italy, who were sufficiently piqued by their reluctance not to grant international status to the last meeting between the two, in Rieti in January, that they won comfortably. Dixon also believes that Italy will improve considerably from their lacklustre performance against England a fortnight ago.

"*England, as they* have done to us, took them on up front and beat them that way," he said. "We don't have that kind of team or that kind of mentality. I expect this to be a very exciting game. I felt England answered the question about their style when they played the New Zealand Barbarians, where they were much *more* dynamic than against Italy. The Italians though were minus three first-choice locks and two of them are back now, so they should present a greater challenge in the lineout."

SCOTLAND SQUAD

BACKS: C Chalmers (Melrose), R Eriksson (London Scottish), S Hastings (Watsonians), K Logan (Stirling County), D Patterson (Heriot's FP), B Redpath (Melrose), R Shepherd (Melrose), A Stanger (Hawick), D Stark (Melrose), G Townsend (Northampton, captain)

FORWARDS: D Cronin (Wasps), G Ellis (Currie), D Hilton (Bath), K McKenzie (Stirling County), E Peters (Bath), A Reed (Wasps), I Smith (Gloucester), B Stewart (Edinburgh Academicals), M Stewart (Northampton), M Wallace (GHK), G Weir (Newcastle)

Pienaar's driving ambition has not been blunted by the pain of rejection. Photograph: David Rogers / ALLSPORT

Clubs name company nominees

THE prospect of a lasting settlement between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the leading English clubs grew last night when a board meeting of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc) confirmed its six nominees to *the joint company that, it is* proposed, will run the professional game in England (David Hands writes).

Ian McGeechan, of Northampton, who will coach the British Isles team next year, is joined from the first division clubs by Donald Kerr, of Harlequins, Peter Wheeler, of Leicester, and Charles Levison, of Wasps; the second division will be represented by Symon Elliott, of Richmond, and Robin Foster, of Wakefield, with the RFU yet to make its two appointments.

England option for Pienaar

From Inigo Gilmore
in Johannesburg

AS THE world of rugby union, lurching along under the giddy influence of professionalism, continues to produce juxtapositions that defy beliefs forged on the anvil of amateurism, another startling image has been conjured: an England team running out to *contest the 1999 World Cup* final with Francois Pienaar leading the way.

Pienaar, as intimately associated with South Africa as Cape wines and car hijackings, lifted the trophy last year after captaining his team to a victory with a spiritual certainty and moral fortitude that did much to bolster the "Rainbow Nation" concept of the country's President, Nelson Mandela.

In an interview with a Johannesburg newspaper yesterday, Pienaar, who this week signed a contract with Saracens, the Courage league first division side, stressed that he still desperately wanted to play for South Africa, despite being dropped this autumn, but that he could be forced to change nationalities to keep his career alive.

"I just want to play international rugby and if England want to give me the opportunity, then I'll seriously consider it," *he said. The terseness of* his dismissal, which came as the new South Africa coach, André Markgraaff, attempted to stamp his authority on a side failing to recapture the zest of 1995, certainly appeared to offer little hope of a reconciliation.

Pienaar will be 33, a ripe old age for a flanker, by the time the World Cup final is staged in Cardiff, but the South African press were taking his words seriously yesterday. The newspaper explained that, under International Rugby Football Board rules, a player can switch to another national team if three years have elapsed since the last appearance for his country.

Pienaar last played for South Africa against the All Blacks on August 10 this year and would, therefore, be eligible for England before the World Cup. Thankfully, Pienaar, who led his country 29 times, has remained level-*headed.* "*Flankers usually* reach their peak between *27* and 32 years old and I am currently 29, so I still have a few years left."

Pienaar's first game for Saracens will be on December 28, against either Orrell or Sale. Will Jack Rowell, the England manager, be there?

☐ Jason Little, troubled by the knee he injured in the opening match of the Australia tour of Britain, has withdrawn from the XV that will close its itinerary against the Barbarians at Twickenham tomorrow.

ROWING

Bowden gives boost to Britain

By Mike Rosewell

SEAN BOWDEN is to become Great Britain's lightweight men's coach from January, returning to a position in which he and Britain enjoyed great success between 1992 and 1994.

Bowden, who was also head coach for Nottingham County from 1989 to 1994, guided the British lightweight eight to world championship silver and gold medals before taking responsibility for the heavyweight eight in the run-up to the Olympic Games. He was also involved in Cambridge University's Boat Race resurgence in the early Nineties.

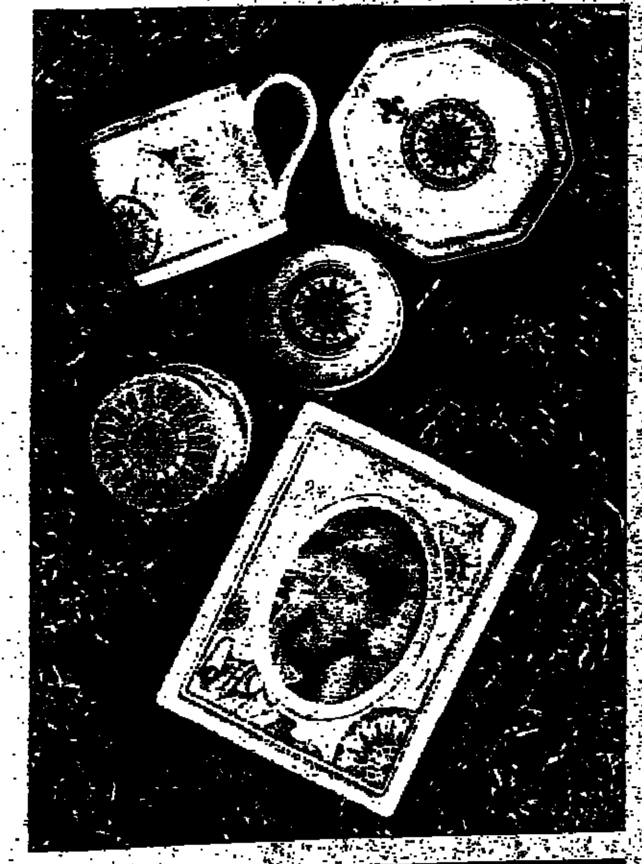
In a further boost for the sport, it was also announced yesterday that the National Lottery Sports Fund, with the approval of the Sports Council, has made an £8.9 million award towards the cost of an international-standard 2,000-metre rowing course at the Royal Albert Dock.

The £8.9 million lottery grant for the Docklands rowing course represents 54 per cent of the cost of a three-phase scheme that will produce only the third venue in the United Kingdom to achieve international-course standards.

The London Docklands Development Corporation will meet the remaining costs for the venture, which will be used by rowers, *canoeists,* dragon boats and local schools and children.

Domestic regattas have been held on the dock for ten years, but only over 1,750 metres and with limited facilities.

The award, which is the largest in London to date, will also provide changing facilities, an administration centre, boat storage for 90 eights, workshops, accommodation for competitors and a gymnasium.



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We have eight sets of prizes to give away, selected from the Atlas collection, comprising a Boehm Mug (£21.95), an Octagonal Tray (£16.95), a Small Round Box (£24.95), a Dome Paperweight (£24.95), and a Byron Portrait Frame (£42.50). Other items in the collection, not included in the prize, include a Card Box with Cards (£49.95), a Rectangular Tray (£42.50) and a Desk Clock (£54.95).

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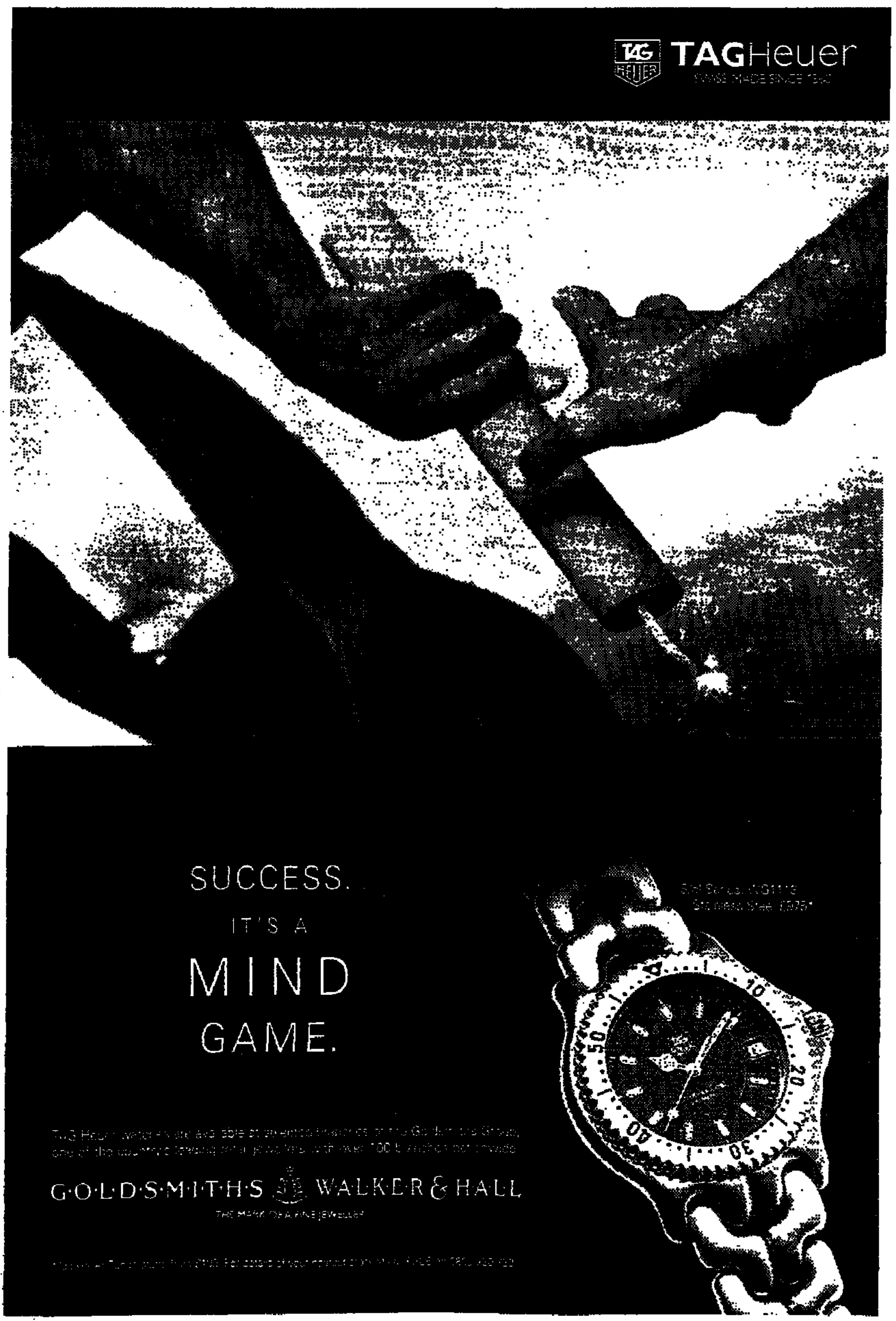

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IN BRIEF

Burnett is shut out by resilient McGuire

ROBERT MARSHALL and Jim McGuire survived tough semi-finals in the CIS Insurance Scottish national indoor singles bowls championship at Coatbridge yesterday.

McGuire lost the opening set against Darren Burnett, but allowed him to score on only three ends thereafter as he claimed a 6-7, 7-4, 7-3 victory. Marshall seemed to be on course for an easy triumph over Sandy Syme when he won the first set 7-4, but Syme took the second 7-2 before Marshall regained his form and won the third 7-0.

Tactical victory

Rackets: Rupert Owen-Browne, the No 6 seed, survived a shaky start to defeat Richard Montgomerie, the Northamptonshire cricketer, in the second round of the British amateur championship at Queen's Club. Montgomerie won the first game, but Owen-Browne's play then became more tactical and he moved his opponent around well before dispatching a string of fine winners.

Bjorn winner

Golf: Thomas Bjorn, 25, who became the first Danish player to win on the European Tour when he captured the Loch Lomond World Invitational in September, has won the Sir Henry Cotton rookie-of-the-year award.

Staying up

Tennis: Great Britain avoided relegation from the champions division by beating Slovakia 2-0 in the European men's team championship at Reggio Calabria, Italy, yesterday. Andrew Richardson beat Tomas Catar 6-4, 6-1, then Danny Sapsford defeated Martin Hromec 6-3, 7-6.

TENNIS: BECKER AWAITS IN SEMI-FINAL AFTER WASHINGTON'S CHALLENGE IS DISMISSED

Henman's power reaps rich reward

From Alix Ramsay in Munich

THIS has been a year to remember for Tim Henman — 12 months of headlines, impressive results and hefty paydays. Yesterday, though, he outdid every expectation by marching into the semi-finals of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup with a 7-6, 6-3 demolition of MaliVai Washington. The win means that in a little more than 2¼ hours of work in the Olympiahalle, Henman has doubled his earnings for the year as he is assured of at least £275,000 even if he loses to Boris Becker on Saturday.

With the court surrounded by Christmas trees and fairy lights, Henman is not yet willing to admit that his week could have a touch of magic about it, but he is certainly enjoying the experience. Not normally an effusive chap, he seemed genuinely happy with the ease of his win, especially as he had only come here with the idea of having a little fun. "Whether it is a fairytale or not — I don't know," he said.

Washington, the runner-up to Richard Krajicek in the Wimbledon final and the Dutchman's conqueror here, has spent most of his career lurking around the 20-30 mark in the world rankings, the same level Henman has worked so hard to reach this year. He has taken on the best, occasionally beaten them, but never really posed a challenge to the few who win the important titles. He has always known his way around a tennis court, but yesterday he could find no answer to the British No 1 as Henman hit a purple patch towards the end of the first set.

Suddenly, his first service, which had looked somewhat fragile on Tuesday against Michael Stich, was thundering past Washington's flailing racket. Henman hit a total of 20 aces, some of which broke the 130mph barrier and were faster than Becker's best as the German swept past Jakob Hlasek 6-4, 6-1.

After such a long, if productive, year, Henman's form, which he described as the best of his career, was a welcome surprise. "I think the way I served today — that's not someone who is tired or has played too much tennis this year," he said. "Now, if I can go away and become physically stronger, may be I can serve with even more consistency."

As quarter-finals go, the match started as a low-key affair. The crowd had paid to watch Becker and once he was safely home and dry the spectators left in droves. Gradually filtering back from the bars and the eateries, it began to dawn on them that their man might not have an easy ride on Saturday if Henman can maintain his current form.

It took Henman a while to settle to his task as the first set headed for the tie-break, but once it came he managed to increase the pace. Looking sharper and leaner, he was pushing Washington into more and more errors. With the first set in the bag, Henman was in complete control.

Washington's shots became wilder as he was put on the back foot. Henman's returns were blistering, and when he needed to get involved in a rally, his forehand found the lines with impressive regularity.

Only when he served for the match at 5-1 in the second set did he make a couple of rare mistakes to give Washington his first break points of the day. "At 30-love I thought let's try and make life easy, but I missed an easy volley and he went on to break me," Henman said. "But you try not to press too many panic buttons and I knew I had been serving so well up until then. I was still feeling pretty confident."

Still a service break up, Henman did not waste his second chance and made his way through into the semi-finals on his third match point. "It has to be up there with one of my best matches indoors or outdoors," he said. "We were playing for a lot of money today and I'm not complaining about that — that's for sure!

"But, to go through and play Boris Becker over five sets in his home town, you don't get much better than that. Well, perhaps if it were on the Centre Court at Wimbledon — but that's probably his home too."

Becker drives a formidable backhand drive past Hlasek. Photograph: Frank Augstein

BASKETBALL

Cadle concerned about problems piled on his plate

By Nicholas Harling

KEVIN CADLE'S biggest worry now that London Towers have reached the later stages of the European Cup is not an inevitable fixture pile-up, but the food that is likely to be on the menu in Russia.

Cadle, the team coach, loves chicken and rice, a Cajun speciality that has been made available to the Budweiser League champions on most occasions on their East European travels. But the man from Buffalo knows that his team's favourite food is rarely available in Russia, the home of Saratov, their likely opponents early next year.

Chicken Kiev, yes, but whoever heard of Chicken Saratov? Steak, or rather horse meat, is the most likely alternative Cadle is expecting to be served on the evidence of past trips.

"The only think I can't stand about Russia is their food," he admitted, after London Towers had reached the last 32 by beating Budocnost Podgorica, of Yugoslavia, by 71-58 at Wembley on Wednesday.

Yet there is a way out. If Towers win their final game in group H, against Marco-Kormend, in Hungary next Tuesday, they will avoid fourth place and with it the dreaded trip to Saratov. TDK Manraser, a Spanish team from near Barcelona, would then provide their opposition.

Thoughts of Russia and the prospect of the Sainsburys Cola national cup semi-final last night against Leopards combined to make the Wembley celebration a muted affair. Towers play the second leg against Leopards on Sunday and face a confrontation with the Budweiser League leaders, Sheffield Sharks, at Wembley on the following Sunday, after their return from Hungary.

A daunting programme, which leaves Cadle unfazed. "We played five games in six days in Italy before the season started, so that should be no problem," he said.

The Leopards could, of course, have eased the fixture congestion by being more flexible over dates, but such is the rivalry between the capital's top two clubs that they appeared to go out of their way not to do so.

The London Arena, the Leopards insisted, was unavailable on all three alternative dates suggested by the Towers, who were even prepared to forfeit home advantage in the second leg. Yet further investigations revealed that the venue was available on all three dates.

Towers have thus been supplied with the extra motivation required for the continued defence of their domestic cup, however tired they might be.

Danny Lewis was their top scorer, with 27 points, against Budocnost Podgorica, but Alan Cunningham's part in the victory was particularly meritorious.

He scored four points and grabbbed several vital rebounds, having earlier in the day attended the funeral of his best friend, who had been best man at his wedding. "You can't ask for greater commitment than that," Cadle said.

After the bill of fare, the main concern for Cadle is his team's free-throw shooting. They missed 11 out of 20 shots from the line in the second half on Wednesday, including four in a row from Joe Hooks.

Hooks, thankfully, made amends with an irresistible dunk that decisively interrupted a worrying rally by the Yugoslavs, who had trimmed arrears of 23 points to just five with six minutes remaining.

HOCKEY

Women preparing for crucial vote

By a Correspondent

THE All England Womens Hockey Association (AEWHA) could vote tomorrow to dissolve the existing association and join with the men in forming the new English Hockey Association (EHA).

After the men's decision on Wednesday to dissolve their association, and with plans already well advanced for the new EHA to be formed on June 1, 1997, a negative vote by the women meeting in Milton Keynes could pose problems for the future of the game.

Mon Pickersgill, the president of the AEWHA, said that she was confident the majority of members were in favour of a new association but added that she had reservations about achieving the 90 per cent majority required by the constitution to dissolve the association. "Ninety per cent is a huge majority and if we don't get it everything will be delayed," she said. "Voting against it will be a major setback, although not an insurmountable one.

"I know that forming a new association will have its problems but it really is the only way forward, particularly with the funding we will get as a joint association from the Sports Council and the National Lottery. The prospects are very exciting."

On the international front, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) is hoping to initiate an annual, global competition called the World Hockey Series. The first men's season is planned for 1997-98 with the women joining in 1998-99. Els van Breda Vriesman, the secretary-general of the FIH, said: "We hope to achieve a more global distribution of international competition and generate substantial television, spectator and sponsor interest."

BADMINTON

DENPASAR, Indonesia: World Grand Prix Finals: Men's singles: Group B: D Jiong (Ch) bt O Ewe Hock (Mas) 15-9, 17-14; T Stuer-Lauridsen (Den) bt I Wijaya (Ind) 15-9, 15-11. Women's singles: Group A: G Zhichao (Ch) bt C Gandrup (Swe) 11-4, 11-8; Group D: H Jingna (Ch) bt Z Yaqiong (Ch) 11-2, 8-11, 11-2. Men's doubles: Group A: R Subagja and R Mainaky (Ind) bt P Axelsson and P G Jonsson (Swe) 15-4, 15-11. Mixed doubles: Group B: M Sogaard and R Olsen (Den) bt N Ponting and J Goode (GB) 15-4, 15-3. Group A: T Stavngaard and A Jorgensen (Den) bt I Tohari and E Ermawati (Ind) 18-15, 15-7; T Heryanto and M Timur (Ind) bt C Hunt (GB) and H Kirkegaard (Den) 15-7, 15-3.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION: Detroit 100 Atlanta 90; Miami 101 Dallas 79; New York 109 New Jersey 102; Cleveland 84 Orlando 57; Utah 101 LA Lakers 75; Houston 94 Boston 89; San Antonio 113 Philadelphia 103; Phoenix 118 Golden State 87; Indiana 127 Vancouver 80.

EUROLEAGUE: Group B: Alba Berlin 81 Teamsystem Bologna 64. Group C: Ljubljana (Slovenia) 73 Villeurbanne (Fr) 60. Group H: London Towers 71 Podgorica (Yug) 58

BOWLS

COATBRIDGE: CIS Scottish Masters: Final: G Robertson (Scot) bt D Gourlay Jr (Scot) 7-5, 7-4, 7-3.

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: Group A: Auxerre 2 Rangers 1; Grasshopper Club Zurich 0 Ajax 1. Group B: Atlético Madrid 1 Widzew Lodz 0; Borussia Dortmund 5 Steaua Bucharest 3. Group C: Juventus 2 Fenerbahçe 0; Rapid Vienna 0 Manchester United 2. Group D: AC Milan 1 Rosenborg 2; IFK Gothenburg 0 FC Porto 2.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal 3 Southampton 1; West Ham 0 Aston Villa 2. NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Stoke City 1 Charlton Athletic 0.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division: Hamilton Academical 5 Brechin City 1.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Farsley Celtic 3 Eastwood Town 1. Cup: Third round: Accrington Stanley 4 Flixton 1

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Birmingham 2 Manchester United 4; Sheffield Wednesday 2 Tranmere 0. First division: Sheffield United 1 Huddersfield 4. Second division: Barnsley 3 Bradford 2; Carlisle 1 Shrewsbury 2; Stockport 1 Manchester City 3.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: League Cup: Bournemouth 0 Southampton 4; Watford 3 Queens Park Rangers 2.

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Dartford 0 Dulwich Hamlet 0. Third qualifying round replays: Salisbury City 2 Harrow Borough 1, Newport AFC 4 Cambridge City 1.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Clitheroe 2 Salford City 0; St Helens Town 0 Blackpool Rovers 1. Floodlit Trophy: Second round: Penrith 2 Holker Old Boys 1.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Shelfield 1 Ashfield 1.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Cup: Second round: Bloxwich Stollers 3 Lye Town 2.

FA YOUTH CUP: First-round replay: Bury 2 Notts County 0.

OPTIMUM INTERIORS CAPITAL LEAGUE: Fulham 2 Wycombe 4; Woking 0 Brentford 3; Peterborough 2 Colchester 1.

CASTELLON, Spain: World five-a-side indoor championships: Group E: Russia 6 Belgium 2; Spain 4 Italy 1.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Fourth round: Croydon 1 South London 0; Gosport 4 Newport 1; Halesowen 3 Cardiff 5. FA Premier League under-19 trophy: Norfolk 3 Hertfordshire 2. FA Premier League under-16 trophy: Staffordshire 5 Shropshire 1. Suffolk under-19 colleges championship: Final: University College Suffolk 5 West Suffolk College 2. Inter-county under-15: West Midlands 1 Nottinghamshire 1.

SOUTH AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION CUP: Final: Second leg: Santa Fe (Col) 1 Lanus (Arg) 0. (In Bogotá. Lanus win 2-1 on agg.)

ASIAN CUP: Group B: Iran 1 Iraq 2; Saudi Arabia 6 Thailand 0 (in Dubai).

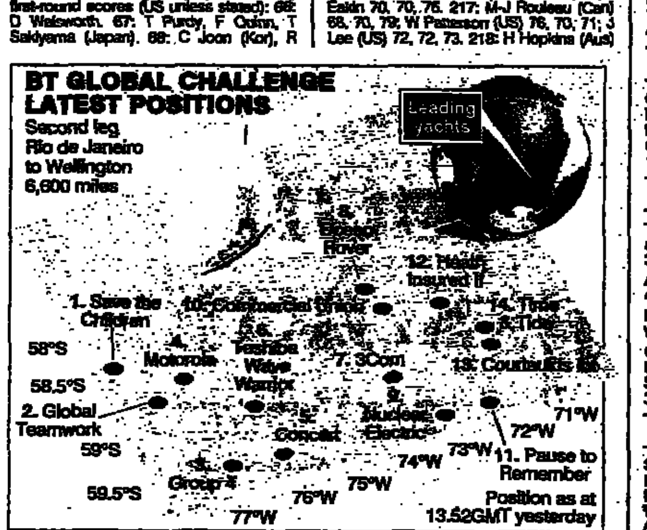
GOLF

HARARE: Zimbabwe Open: Leading first-round scores (SA unless stated): 65: S Van Vuuren, D Terblanche. 67: S van der Merwe (Nam). 68: N Price (Zim). 69: Mark Cayeux (Zim), A Pitts (US), D Fourie. 70: N Kamungeremu (Zim), J Kingston, I Hutchings, C Whitelaw. 71: D Pappas, M Murless, B Verwey Sr, J Hobday, R Dreyer, J Blatch (Zim). 72: M McNulty (Zim), S Hobday, T Dodds, (Nam), G Reid, D Botes, A da Silva (Br), M Scholz, A Roestoff, B Vaughan, B Verwey Jr, A Park, C Lotter, S Waltman. 73: I Palmer, H Baiocchi, T Johnstone (Zim). 74: G Levenson.

HONG KONG: Hong Kong Open: Leading first-round scores (US unless stated): 66: D Walsworth. 67: T Purdy, F Quinn, T Sakiyama (Japan). 68: C Joon (Kor), R Cuello (Phil). 69: B Chamblee, C Jones (Aus), J Kernohan (US), M Roberts (Aus). 70: A Cruz (Phil), C Devers, H Kun (Kor), R Russell (Scot), M Tomita (Japan), D Briggs (US), C Espinosa (Mex), S Hoch, E Meeks, O Nordberg (Swe).

PARAPARAUMU BEACH: New Zealand Open: Leading first-round scores: 64: M Allen (Aus). 65: M Long (NZ). 66: S Scahill (NZ), P Gow (Aus). 68: M Peterson (Aus), D Cole (Aus). 69: D Dias (Aus). 70: D White (NZ), S Toomen (Aus), P Moloney (Aus), Bradley Heaven (NZ), J Kay (Can).

LA MANGA, Spain: Tour qualifying school: Leaders after three rounds (GB and Ire unless stated): 212: V Stenerud (Nor) 71, 71, 70. 213: M Hedblom (Swe) 72, 70, 71. 216: L Ericsson (Swe) 72, 72, 72; T Eakin 70, 70, 76. 217: M-J Rouleau (Can) 68, 70, 79; W Patterson (US) 76, 70, 71; J Lee (US) 72, 72, 73. 218: H Hopkins (Aus) 72, 73, 73; C Schmitt (Fr) 70, 74, 74; M-T Pistolet (Fr) 69, 73, 76; S Farron (NZ) 73, 71, 74. 219: M Burstrom (Swe) 73, 72, 74; S Eklund (Swe) 74, 69, 76. 220: S Elliott 73, 72, 75; I Maconi 72, 75, 73; S Lambert 76, 73, 71. 221: N Lowien (Aus) 75, 72, 74; M Landehag (Swe) 74, 75, 72; M Adamson (SA) 74, 74, 73; J Head 74, 73, 74; L Dermott 72, 74, 75; J Oliver 74, 73, 74; K Andersson (Swe) 71, 76, 74; A Torres (Arg) 71, 73, 77.



BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE LATEST POSITIONS

Second leg
Rio de Janeiro
to Wellington
6,600 miles

Position as at 13.52GMT yesterday

DISTANCE TO WELLINGTON: 1, Save The Children 4,573 miles; 2, Global Teamwork 4,584; 3, Group 4 4,597; 4, Motorola 4,601; 5, Concert 4,627; 6, Toshiba Wave Warrior 4,628; 7, 3Com 4,697; 8, Ocean Rover 4,711; 9, Nuclear Electric 4,713; 10, Commercial Union 4,718; 11, Pause To Remember 4,722; 12, Heath Insured II 4,744; 13, Courtaulds International 4,753, 14, Time & Tide 4,754.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE: Buffalo 6 Vancouver 7 (OT); Montreal 3 Boston 4; NY Rangers 1 Philadelphia 1 (OT); Ottawa 2 Pittsburgh 4; Washington 0 Detroit 2; Dallas 1 San Jose 2; Colorado 2 Edmonton 0; Anaheim 3 Tampa Bay 1.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: British amateur championship: Second round: R Owen-Browne bt R Montgomerie 9-15, 15-2, 15-1, 18-14. Quarter-final: G Barker bt T Cockroft 10-15, 15-8, 15-11, 6-15, 15-6.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCHES: Combined Leicester and Northampton XV 20 Western Samoa 33; Pontypridd 19 Queensland 28.

ANGLO-WELSH CUP: Pool 2B: Saracens 44 Treorchy 29.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Ebbw Vale 59 Welsh Invitation XV 66.

CLUB MATCHES: London Irish 0 Brunel University 39; Sale 99 Loughborough Students 6; Bedford 60 RAF 10; Plymouth 36 Bridgwater 0; Nuneaton 16 Rugby 32.

TABLE TENNIS

SINGAPORE: Asian championships: Preliminary round: Men: Hong Kong bt Philippines 3-1; Pakistan bt Malaysia 3-1; Vietnam bt Thailand 3-2; Vietnam bt Saudi Arabia 3-0; Taiwan bt Kazakhstan 3-0; Indonesia bt Thailand 3-1; Australia bt Pakistan 3-0; Iran bt Malaysia 3-0; Saudi Arabia bt Macao 3-0. Women: China bt Singapore 3-1; Japan bt Taiwan 3-0; South Korea bt Indonesia 3-1; Hong Kong bt Australia 3-0; Thailand bt Nepal 3-0; Malaysia bt Kazakhstan 3-0; India bt Philippines 3-1.

TENNIS

MUNICH: Grand Slam Cup: Quarter-finals: B Becker (Ger) bt J Hlasek (Switz) 6-4, 6-1.

WORLD RANKINGS: Men: 1, P Sampras (US) 4,865pts; 2, M Chang (US) 3,597; 3, Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 3,564; 4, G Ivanisevic (Cro) 3,492; 5, T Muster (Austria) 3,166; 6, B Becker (Ger) 2,983; 7, R Krajicek (Holl) 2,380; 8, A Agassi (US) 2,384; 9, T Enqvist (Swe) 2,191; 10, W Ferreira (SA) 2,149; 11, M Rios (Chile) 2,114; 12, T Martin (US) 2,089; 13, A Costa (Sp) 1,757; 14, S Edberg (Swe) 1,567; 15, J Siemerink (Holl) 1,530; 16, M Stich (Ger) 1,518; 17, M Gustafsson (Swe) 1,515; 18, F Mantilla (Sp) 1,505; 19, A Berasategui (Sp) 1,477; 20, M Washington (US) 1,472. Women: 1, S Graf (Ger) 332.0714pts; 2, M Seles (US) 312.0083; 2, A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) 203.7882; 3, J Novotna (Cz) 192.9963; 4, M Hingis (Switz) 179.4708; 5, C Martinez (Sp) 176.7208; 6, A Huber (Ger) 149.4188; 7, I Majoli (Cro) 147.0990; 8, K Date (Japan) 139.6387; 9, L Davenport (US) 136.6510; 10, B Paulus (Austria) 87.7813; 11, I Spirlea (Rom) 83.2789; 12, C Rubin (US) 82.6245; 13, B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl) 82.0728; 14, M J Fernandez (US) 80.8341; 15, J Halard-Decugis (Fr) 79.3996; 16, K Habsudova (Slovakia) 74.2182.

FOOTBALL

FA Cup
Second round
Plymouth v Exeter (7.45)

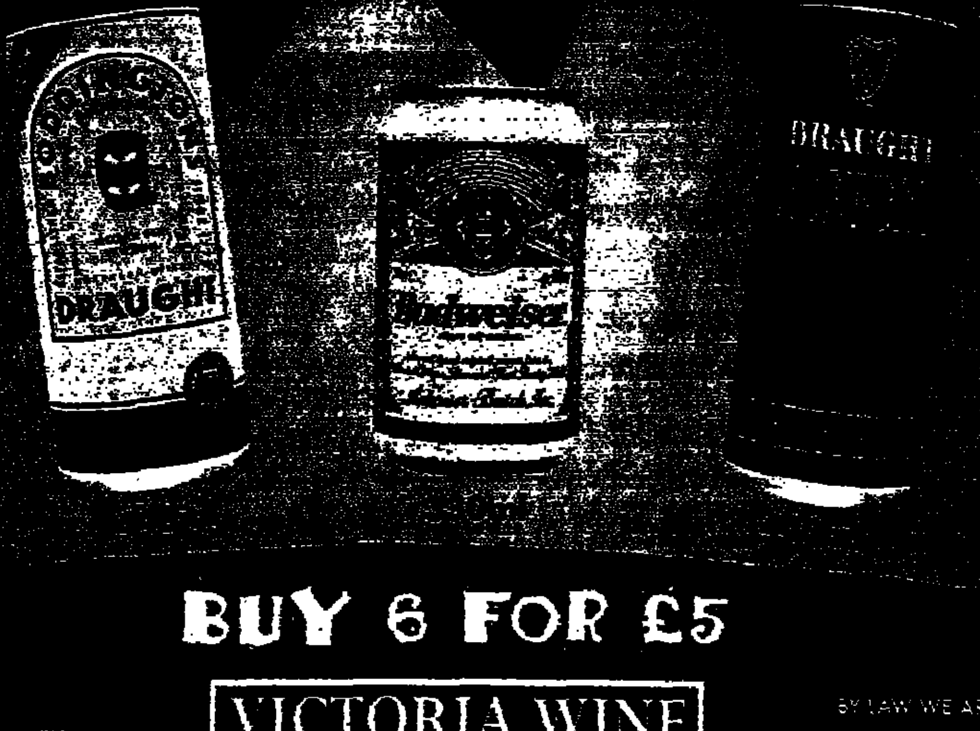
LEAGUE OF WALES: Llansantffraid v Ebbw Vale (7.45).

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: St Patrick's Ath v Bohemians (7.45).

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill v Three Bridges (7.30).

FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Bolton v Sheffield Utd (7.30).

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS



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RACING: CELEBRATED JOCKEY WARMS UP IN STYLE FOR HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL FIXTURE

Dettori's winning smile pays dividend

FROM RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT
IN HONG KONG

The first rays of sunshine squinted over Ma On Shan mountain onto Sha Tin racecourse as the blazered security official outside the stable block asked his question. It deserves a place in racing folklore.

"Are you jockey?" he enquired, in clipped tones, of the bronzed figure, complete with riding hat, boots and whip.

Frankie Dettori was kind. He smiled the smile which lightens anyone's heart before replying in the affirmative.

A dozen hours later, with the sun having given way to the stars, 40,000 racegoers packed into Happy Valley's floodlit racetrack, Hong Kong's other famous course, and showed they could recognise the biggest star of all. As betting began on the opener, they had eyes for only one horse: Rabbit Bo Bo. The jockey: L Dettori.

"And here comes Frankie boy," the commentator roared as Rabbit Bo Bo struck the front 200 yards from the line and went on to justify favouritism. Another winner, but for a first-time visitor to Hong Kong the scene was as unrecognisable as the face of Dettori had been to the security guard earlier in the day.

Imagine, for a moment, a racecourse sharper in circumference than Chester, built in the middle of St James's Park, and you begin to get some idea about the punchbowl track in the heart of this vibrant colony. Dozens of skyscrapers, whose twinkling lights at night make them resemble a forest of giant Christmas trees, look down on proceedings alongside the ten-tiered grandstand. Then there is the betting.

With all due respect to Rabbit Bo Bo, the horses running in the class six Tai Hang Tung Handicap would not have been out of place in a bad seller at Wolverhampton, even if the prize-money did top £30,000. But that did not stop punters wagering around HK$130 million (just over £10 million) on the outcome. It proved to be one of the smaller betting heats of the night.

Inevitably, the seventh and last race on the card attracted the most interest as winning punters played up their gains and losers tried to get out of trouble. The six-furlong handicap, worth £90,000, attracted more than £16 million in bets, taking the grand total for the night — including exotics such as the daily double and triple — to a mind-boggling £92 million, plus enough loose change to fund a couple of British classics.

The figures covering a season's betting in the colony reach levels only Camelot can understand and attempts to convert them into sterling defy a normal calculator, which cannot cope with so many noughts.

In the 1995-6 season, betting turnover in a colony with six million people reached £6,350 million from just 71 meetings and 548 races. That compares to turnover in Britain of around £4,000 million from more than 1,000 race meetings.

However, the most telling figure appears in the final line of the Hong Kong Jockey Club accounts. After paying out winning dividends (81.31 per cent of turnover) and betting duty (12.8 per cent), "commission" of 5.89 per cent — worth £374 million — is left over. The British Horseracing Board and Levy Board can only dream of getting their hands on such riches.

Ironically, the three international races to be staged at Sha Tin on Sunday, which have attracted a galaxy of top trainers and jockeys from around the globe, will not be betting bonanzas. Contrary to the perception that people here will bet on the proverbial two flies climbing up a wall, they are choosy and back only horses they know. The likes of the American-trained Da Hoss, and British challengers such as Iktamal, Sacrament and First Island tend to muddy the waters.

What is uncertain is how racing and betting will be affected by the handover of Hong Kong to China, now just over 200 days away. The honest answer is nobody knows.

However, the most interesting speculation concerns the future of racing in China, rather than Hong Kong. There is already a racetrack, complete with totalisator board and grandstands, at Guangzhou (formerly Canton) about 80 miles north of here.

If the Chinese government took a more realistic view towards gambling, it is suggested it could be sitting on a gold mine. Of course, it is a big if. So big, in fact, that even people here would think twice about betting on the outcome.

GEORGE SELWYN

The unsaddling enclosure is a hive of activity as 40,000 racegoers pack into the ten-tier grandstand at Happy Valley's floodlit racecourse

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: SQUIRE SILK
(1.50 Exeter)
Next best: Ballyea Boy
(2.20 Exeter)

HEREFORD

THUNDERER

12.40 Warner For Players. 1.10 Monks Jay. 1.40 Harry. 2.10 FEEL THE POWER (nap). 2.40 Raven's Roost. 3.10 Express Travel. 3.40 Sunday Venture.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.40 RAVEN'S ROOST.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS
7AM INSPECTION TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

12.40 WIDEMARSH NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,542. 2m 3f 110yd) (16 runners)

101	3-10	MEDFORD 13 (F) W G M Turner 5-11-5	J Power (7)	87
102	000-	ACHILL PRINCE 321 N Ayliffe 5-10-12	W McFarland	–
103		ALTHREY GALE F Lloyd 5-10-12	S Wynne	–
104	342-	BALLESWHIDDEN 263 B Smart 4-10-12	I Lawrence	–
105	11	BOOTS MADDEN 23 (G) Miss V Williams 6-10-12	N Williamson	–
106	405	BURNTWOOD MELODY 13 P Dalton 5-10-12	J Supple	72
107	04U-	CHILI HEIGHTS 34F K Bishop 6-10-12	D Bridgwater	●
108	0-0	MR MOTIVATOR 23 T Keddy 6-10-12	D Leahy	–
109	600	MY SHENANDOAH 9 H Oliver 5-10-12	V Slattery	–
110	04	MUNSON 9 R Dickin 7-10-12	Mr C Bonner (3)	74
111	4	OLD CAVALIER 41 J J O'Neill 5-10-12	M A Fitzgerald	–
112	626-	SUPREME FLYER 214 K Bailey 6-10-12	C O'Dwyer	–
113	4-00	THE BREWER 15 J Tuck 4-10-12	S McNeill	–
114	31-5	WARNER FOR PLAYERS 23 (S) P Hobbs 5-10-12	B Powell	–
115	0P	FILCH 9 (B) P Murphy 5-10-7	R Farrant	–
116	345-	MADAM MUCK 202 N Twiston-Davies 5-10-7	T Jenks	–

5-2 Boots Madden, 4-1 Supreme Flyer, 9-2 Warner For Players, 7-1 Madam Muck, 8-1 Balleswhidden, Medford, 10-1 Old Cavalier, 12-1 others.

1.10 SIDNEY PHILLIPS FOR PUBS HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,087. 2m 3f) (7)

201	F/4-	OVER THE POLE 380 (D,G) P Chamings 9-12-0	Mr C Bonner (3)	92
202	5-42	LASATA 9 (G,S) R Curtis 11-12-0	D Morris	94
203	-006	SISTER ROSZA 9 (S) Mrs S Lamyman 8-11-3	R Farrant	95
204	-415	MONKS JAY 20 (BF,F,G) G Thorner 7-10-12	I Lawrence	●
205	2/4-	STAR OF ITALY 265 (C,S) C Morlock 9-10-7	L Harvey	–
206	134-	WINSPIT 224 (F,S) R Alner 6-10-7	P Henley (3)	98
207	-413	FICHU 9 (F,S) Mrs L Richards 8-10-0	M Richards	96

5-2 Monks Jay, 3-1 Lasata, 7-2 Fichu, 6-1 Winspit, 8-1 Sister Rosza, 10-1 Over The Pole, 14-1 Star Of Italy

1.40 PENCOED SELLING HURDLE (£2,108: 2m 1f) (14)

301	/P-1	HARRY 13 (G) D Burchell 6-11-5	D J Burchell	87
302	22-6	STRIKE-A-POSE 9 (S) B Llewellyn 6-11-0	Mr J L Llewellyn	84
303	/P0	BALLYHAYS 51 N Ayliffe 7-10-12	R Farrant	–
304		COMEONUP 11F J Bradley 5-10-12	N Williamson	–
305	0P	DARING RYDE 20 J Smith 5-10-12	A Thornton	–
306		GLEN GARNOCK 55F R Juckes 4-10-12	Gary Lyons	–
307	2-06	LIME STREET BLUES 36 (B) C Brooks 5-10-12	G Bradley	●
308	0	MONTY 27 G Yardley 4-10-12	P Henley (3)	–
309	6	OFFICE HOURS 8 W G M Turner 4-10-12	W McFarland	72
310		PROUD IMAGE 11F G McCourt 4-10-12	B Clifford	–
311	-P04	QUICK DECISION 24 J Cresswell 5-10-12	N T Egan (7)	76
312	05-	SMILEY FACE 308F R Hodges 4-10-12	P Holley	84
313		AUDREY GRACE 92F Miss G Kelleway 5-10-7	D Bridgwater	–
314	0	TOMORROWS HARVEST 16 R Hodges 4-10-7	I Lawrence	–

2-1 Harry, 4-1 Lime Street Blues, 5-1 Audrey Grace, 7-1 Proud Image, 8-1 Strike-A-Pose, 10-1 Comeonup, 12-1 others.

2.10 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICES CHASE
(Qualifier £3,243: 2m 3f) (14)

401	5574	LEGAL ARTIST 15 (F,G) Miss C Johnsey 6-11-5	L Harvey	50
402	U-31	MARINERS MIRROR 25 (G,S) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-0	Mr M Rimell	71
403	3	APPLE JOHN 16 (G) R Alner 7-10-12	P Henley (3)	–
404	04-0	BANKONIT 9 (S) D Davies 8-10-12	I Lawrence	–
405	0P0-	ERNEST ARAGORN 240 (V) Mrs S Lamyman 7-10-12	R Farrant	–
406	23-3	FEEL THE POWER 18 (S) K Bailey 6-10-12	C O'Dwyer	●
407	0U	HIGH HANDED 24 T Caldwell 5-10-12	B Clifford	–
408	112-	JOLLY BOAT 214P (F,G,S) F Jordan 9-10-12	S Wynne	–
409	4-PP	KING'S GOLD 37 Mrs L Richards 6-10-12	M Richards	–
410	5254	KING'S SHILLING 16 (F,G,S) H Oliver 9-10-12	Jacqui Oliver	–
411	63-F	WOT NO GIN 16 A J Wilson 7-10-12	A Thornton	–
412	2-GU	ZAITOON 15 (F,G) D Nicholson 5-10-12	D Bridgwater	–
413	0-00	IRISH PERRY 9 I Morton 9-10-7	M Sharratt	–
414	4P-6	KNOWING 16 (S) P Walters 9-10-7	Mr A Wintle (7)	61

4-6 Feel The Power, 7-2 Mariners Mirror, 7-1 Zaitoon, 8-1 Apple John, 10-1 Jolly Boat, High Handed, 14-1 others.

2.40 INNPLAN INSURANCE AMATEUR RIDERS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,486: 2m 1f) (14)

501	-841	WAYFARERS WAY 15 (G) N Henderson 5-11-10	C Vigors (5)	92
502	0424	HIGHLY CHARMING 31 M Barraclough 4-11-8	A Wintle (7)	91
503	005	SEGALA 14 J J O'Neill 5-11-7	L Corcoran (7)	92
504	-2FP	COUNTRY MINSTREL 16 S Dow 5-10-13	J Jukes (5)	84
505	1152	RAVEN'S ROOST 16 (CD,F) G Jones 5-10-11	Miss P Jones (5)	●
506	-3F0	FOLLOW DE CALL 13 D McCain 6-10-8	G Lake (7)	84
507	4552	SKRAM 6 (F) R Dickin 3-10-5	C Bonner (3)	92
508	350	THE DEACONESS 15 Mrs A King 5-10-5	O McPhail (7)	80
509	55-P	HONEYBED WOOD 13 I Brown 8-10-5	A Brown (7)	80
510	9-P0	ROYAL GLINT 180 H Haynes 7-10-5	P McAllister (7)	93
511	4PP-	ANALOGUE 225 R Eckley 4-10-2	Miss C Thomas (7)	85
512	6-56	IRISH WILDCARD 31 H Oliver 8-10-2	N H Oliver (7)	84
513	P-00	CAREY'S COTTAGE 27 Mrs P Townsley 6-10-0	Miss C Townsley (7)	94
514	00-8	ALPHA LEATHER 6 L Grassick 5-10-0	J Grassick (7)	–

9-4 Wayfarers Way, 7-2 Segala, 5-1 Raven's Roost, 6-1 Highly Charming, 7-1 Skram, 8-1 Country Minstrel, 16-1 others.

3.10 KINGS CAPLE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,866: 3m 1f 110yd) (16)

601	/3-4	ROBSAND 13 G Balding 7-11-10	B Clifford	94
602	/32	COVERDALE LANE 25 (S) Mrs S Smith 9-11-9	Mr P Murray	–
603	63-5	MAJORS LEGACY 13 T Forster 7-11-8	A Thornton	93
604	232-	BATHWICK BOBBIE 214 D Williams 9-11-8	S McNeill	●
605	15-1	EXPRESS TRAVEL 41 (F,G) R Curtis 8-11-5	D Morris	92
606	0-F5	WIXOE WONDER 8 M Bradstock 6-11-4	P Holley	93
607	P4-3	HANGOVER 4 (G,S) R Lee 10-11-2	G Hogan (3)	88
608	00-6	CONEY ROAD 15 C Brooks 7-11-2	G Bradley	–
609	20-5	CERIDWEN 27 T Greathead 6-11-1	N Mann	84
610	3P-P	OVER THE WREKIN 7 J Needham 9-10-13	L Harvey	88
611	0P-4	GOLDEN DRUM 28 (S) T George 6-10-11	M A Fitzgerald	–
612	12-4	BOSSYMOSS 20 (F) A Streeter 7-10-11	Gary Lyons	–
613	P-04	COOL CHARACTER 19 (G) R Buckler 8-10-10	B Powell	94
614	0/P	MARKET GOSSIP 27 (BF,G) R Alner 8-10-4	P Henley (3)	–
615	6/0	ABSOLATUM 35 (F,G) J Parfitt 9-10-3	T J Murphy	–
616	0P0-	RAGGED KINGDOM 293 C Egerton 7-10-1	J A McCarthy	–

3-1 Express Travel, 5-1 Cool Character, 6-1 Hangover, 7-1 Bathwick Bobbie, 8-1 Robsand, Bossymoss, 10-1 Coney Road, 12-1 others

3.40 SHEPHERDS MEADOW STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,496: 2m 1f) (16)

1	10-	JUST ONE QUESTION 286 (G) J J O'Neill 6-11-11	N Williamson	–
2	5	AZTEC WARRIOR 27 K Bailey 5-11-4	C O'Dwyer	–
3		BOZO B Ryall 5-11-4	M Griffiths (7)	–
4		CAMP HEAD D Sherwood 5-11-4	J A McCarthy	–
5	/00-	COOL HARRY 513 H Haynes 5-11-4	Mr A Wintle (7)	–
6	00-	CROCKNAMOHILL 223 K Bridgwater 5-11-4	D Bridgwater	–
7	5	DOM BELTRANO 17 N Twiston-Davies 4-11-4	L Suthern (7)	–
8		JACK J Tuck 4-11-4	S McNeill	–
9		JUST BAYARD B De Haan 4-11-4	S McNeill	–
10	0	KNIGHT'S CREST 27 R Dickin 6-11-4	B Powell	–
11	0	MURRAY'S MILLION 30 J Smith 4-11-4	T J Murphy	–
12		ONE MORE RUPEE C Morlock 5-11-4	J R Kavanagh	–
13		SUNDAY VENTURE N Henderson 4-11-4	M A Fitzgerald	–
14		SURPRISE CITY A J Wilson 5-11-4	A Thornton	–
15	4	CALLINDOE 35 J Needham 6-10-13	G Hogan (3)	–
16	00-0	MAGSLASS 8 J J O'Neill 4-10-13	G Bradley	–

9-4 Sunday Venture, 7-2 Camp Head, 5-1 Just One Question, 7-1 Aztec Warrior, 8-1 Callindoe, 10-1 Dom Beltrano, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

HEREFORD: Trainers: N Henderson, 13 winners from 26 runners, 50.0%; D Nicholson, 10 from 34, 29.4%; P Hobbs, 14 from 49, 28.6%; N Twiston-Davies, 24 from 85, 28.2%; C Brooks, 3 from 11, 27.3%; R Alner, 7 from 31, 22.6%; R Buckler, 8 from 36, 22.2%. Jockeys: T J Murphy, 4 winners from 9 rides, 44.4%; D Bridgwater, 26 from 108, 24.1%; Mr J Jukes, 3 from 13, 23.1%; J R Kavanagh, 10 from 50, 20.0%; M A Fitzgerald, 11 from 60, 18.3%; N Williamson, 7 from 43, 16.3%; R Farrant, 7 from 47, 14.9%

MARKET RASEN: Trainers: C Mann, 4 winners from 8 runners, 50.0%; N Twiston-Davies, 7 from 23, 30.4%; J Jefferson, 9 from 33, 27.3%; M Wilkinson, 3 from 11, 27.3%; Mrs M Reveley, 20 from 82, 24.4%; M Tompkins, 4 from 19, 21.1%; Mrs P Sly, 3 from 17, 17.6%. Jockeys: P Niven, 19 winners from 107 rides, 17.8%; F Leahy, 6 from 39, 15.4%; D Byrne, 9 from 60, 15.0%; A S Smith, 18 from 121, 14.9%; P McLoughlin, 4 from 30, 13.3%; R Marley, 4 from 31, 12.9%; G Cahill, 3 from 24, 12.5%.

☐ There is a 7am precautionary inspection at Hereford today because of the threat of frost overnight.

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER

12.30 Glenvally. 1.00 Six Clerks. 1.30 Alzulu. 2.00 Ivy House. 2.30 Centaur Express. 3.00 Mister Drum. 3.30 Poppy's Dream.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

12.30 BOB KETT SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,947: 2m 3f 110yd) (12 runners)

1	00-P	CAPTAIN TANDY 18F (F,S) C Smith 7-11-10	D J Kavanagh	
2	4-33	HIGHLAND PARK 21 (F) R Craggs 10-11-9	G Cahill	
3	-142	GLENVALLY 41 (G) B Murray 5-11-8	E Callaghan	
4	2032	PARISH WALK 58 (BF) K Dorsey 5-11-5	B Grattan (3)	
5	300-	WEATHER ALERT 188 (C,G) K Morgan 5-11-2	M Newton (3)	
6	53-0	TROY'S DREAM 21 M Hammond 5-11-1	R Burns (5)	
7	P-P5	JUST FOR A REASON 22 (G) R Juckes 4-11-0	E Husband	
8	15-6	IN A MOMENT 9 (S) C Grant 5-11-0	F Leahy	
9	0224	HAUGHTON LAD 25 J Parkes 7-10-13	P Midgley	
10	33/	STREPHON 748 J Leigh 6-10-9	K Gaule	
11	-060	THARSIS 10 (CD,F,G) W Smith 11-10-8	S Taylor	
12	0P/	TOUGH CHARACTER 695 M Sowersby 8-10-0	D Parker	

3-1 Glenvally, 4-1 Highland Park, 6-1 Parish Walk, In A Moment, 7-1 Troy's Dream, 10-1 Weather Alert, Haughton Lad, 14-1 others.

1.00 CONSTANT SECURITY JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,758: 2m 1f 110yd) (17)

1		ARABIAN HEIGHTS 112F J Mackie 10-12	T Eley
2	6	BAASM 29 J Norton 10-12	W Fry
3	P	EXTREMELY FRIENDLY 29 Bob Jones 10-12	V Smith
4		GENUINE JOHN 14F J Parkes 10-12	P Midgley (3)
5	46	KINGFISHER BRAVE 20 M Meagher 10-12	D Byrne
6		MR GOLD 167F J Jefferson 10-12	M Newton (7)
7	0	NO MORE HASSLE 18F Mrs M Reveley 10-12	P Niven
8		PARROT'S HILL 60F M Tompkins 10-12	A Dobbin
9	00PD	PHANTOM DANCER 13 (B) M Sowersby 10-12	D Parker
10	05	PROPOLIS POWER 13 M W Easterby 10-12	J Callaghan
11		SHOJA 48F Mrs V Aconley 10-12	P McLoughlin
12	04	SIX CLERKS 20 J Fitzgerald 10-12	F Leahy (3)
13		SOCIETY MAGIC 63F C Mann 10-12	J Railton
14	2	BELMARITA 20 G Hubbard 10-7	K Gaule (3)
15	8	CLASSIC DAISY 20 R Spicer 10-7	C Maude
16	440	NORTHERN FALCON 6 (B) M W Easterby 10-7	R Garritty
17	0	PONTEVEDRA 20 K Morgan 10-7	A S Smith

3-1 Belmarita, 4-1 No More Hassle, 5-1 Northern Falcon, 7-1 Six Clerks, Baasm, 10-1 Parrot's Hill, 12-1 Propolis Power, 14-1 others.

1.30 CALDERPRINT NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£3,115: 2m 1f 110yd) (10)

1	112-	ALZULU 268 (F,G) J Fitzgerald 5-10-12	P Niven
2	0-	DOUGAL 210 B Rothwell 5-10-12	R Supple
3	-F45	ERNEST WILLIAM 22 G Hubbard 4-10-12	K Gaule (3)
4	01-0	FERRERS 29 (G) Mrs P Sly 5-10-12	R Marley
5	221	GOOD VIBES 14 (G) T Easterby 4-10-12	R Garritty
6	000	JACKHO 16 Miss J Bower 4-10-12	S Taylor (5)
7	0	KARENA'S PRINCE 25 Mrs S Smith 4-10-12	R Guest
8		MINSTER BOY J Leigh 5-10-12	A Dobbin
9	0-60	DARK PHOENIX 13 (G) O Brennan 6-10-7	M Brennan
10	00-F	SEPTEMBER BREEZE 22 K Morgan 5-10-7	A S Smith

6-4 Alzulu, 7-4 Good Vibes, 6-1 Ferrers, 8-1 Ernest William, 10-1 others

2.00 ALEXANDRA MOTORS HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,413: 3m 4f 110yd) (12)

1	14-0	HOWCLEUCH 25 (F,G,S) K Oliver 9-11-7	B Storey
2	3P-1	WOODLANDS BOY 18 (F,S) R Curtis 8-11-4	G Cahill
3	-2U1	IVY HOUSE 24 (G,S) J J O'Neill 8-11-3	R McGrath (5)
4	61-3	HOLY STING 25 (G,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-13	C Maude
5	1215	SCRABO VIEW 24 (B,F,G,S) P Beaumont 8-10-13	R Supple
6	32-4	PENNINE PRIDE 25 (G,S) M Hammond 9-10-11	R Garritty
7	-323	CELTIC SILVER 22 (BF,F,G) Mrs S Smith 8-10-11	R Guest
8	55-4	SPARROW HALL 29 (F,G,S) J Fitzgerald 9-10-10	P Niven
9	3/1	GRIFFINS BAR 29 (C,G) Mrs P Sly 8-10-3	R Marley
10	13-1	SPROWSTON BOY 42 (F,G,S) M Chapman 13-10-0	W Worthington
11	-555	COOL WEATHER 23 (B) P Cheesbrough 8-10-0	A S Smith
12	1250	ARRANGE A GAME 10 (F) Miss J Bower 9-10-0	S Taylor (5)

7-2 Ivy House, 6-1 Woodlands Boy, Holy Sting, 7-1 Sparrow Hall, 8-1 Celtic Silver, Pennine Pride, 10-1 Griffins Bar, 12-1 others.

2.30 CLUGSTON HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,945: 2m 1f 110yd) (7)

1	200-	NEW INN 251 (F) S Gollings 5-12-0	K Gaule (3)
2	12-1	CENTAUR EXPRESS 35 (D,G,S) A Streeter 4-11-12	T Eley
3	31-4	COLORFUL AMBITION 7 (D,F) Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-5	J Railton
4	00-6	INNOCENT GEORGE 16 (CD,F,G) Miss L Siddall 7-10-6	R Supple
5	06-0	MERILENA 22 (F) G Hubbard 6-10-0	N Rossiter (7)
6	-043	SHERS DELIGHT 13 (F,G) O Brennan 6-10-0	M Brennan
7	00/	FRED'S DELIGHT 183F (S) Mrs V Aconley 5-10-0	P McLoughlin

6-4 Centaur Express, 3-1 Colorful Ambition, 11-2 New Inn, 6-1 Shers Delight, 10-1 Innocent George, 14-1 Merilena, 16-1 Fred's Delight

3.00 UK HYGIENE NOVICES CHASE
(£3,300: 2m 1f 110yd) (9)

1	-1FU	GOLDEN HELLO 9 (BF,F,G,S) T Easterby 5-11-5	P Niven
2	-121	MISTER DRUM 10 (F,G,S) M Wilkinson 7-11-5	R Supple
3	/25	BOLD BOSS 6 (BF,G,S) G Moore 7-10-12	B Storey
4	35PR	CARDINAL SINNER 13 J Wade 7-10-12	A S Smith
5	5F	FAIR ALLY 9 M Sowersby 6-10-12	D Parker
6	-04F	FENWICK'S BROTHER 9 (F) Mrs S Smith 6-10-12	R Wilkinson (7)
7	4-3F	JACK DOYLE 13 (BF,G) J J O'Neill 5-10-12	R Guest
8	21-4	THURSDAY NIGHT 30 (S) J Fitzgerald 5-10-12	A Dobbin
9	2-02	UK HYGIENE 9 (F) M Hammond 6-10-12	R Garritty

9-4 Golden Hello, 5-2 Mister Drum, 4-1 Jack Doyle, 9-2 Bold Boss, 6-1 Thursday Night, 10-1 Fair Ally, Uk Hygiene, 25-1 others.

3.30 CHRISTMAS IS COMING INTERMEDIATE CLAIMING NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,217: 2m 1f 110yd) (9)

1	5	PHAR ENOUGH 41 J Fitzgerald 4-11-9	F Leahy (3)
2	06	AIR BRIDGE 20 R Whitaker 4-11-5	D J Kavanagh (5)
3	1	POPPY'S DREAM 24 (F) J Wharton 6-10-12	Mr R Thornton (5)
4	640-	GAME DRIVE 200 K Morgan 4-10-11	E Callaghan (3)
5		PUSH ON POLLY J Parkes 6-10-10	P Midgley (3)
6	13-0	SPRIG MUSLIN 17 (V,S) D Gandolfo 4-10-6	Sophie Mitchell (5)
7		THE LADY CAPTAIN D Thom 4-10-4	K Gaule (3)
8		DONT TELL MARIE T Carr 6-10-2	T J Comerford (7)
9	0	MOVISA 20 W Smith 6-10-0	S Taylor (5)

5-4 Poppy's Dream, 5-1 Sprig Muslin, 6-1 The Lady Captain, 7-1 Phar Enough, 8-1 Dont Tell Marie, Game Drive, 10-1 Air Bridge, 14-1 others

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Hereford: 12.40 Filch. Market Rasen: 1.00 Phantom Dancer. 2.00 Cool Weather. 3.30 Sprig Muslin.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TWO MEETINGS

Windsor

Going: good

12.30 (2m hdle) 1, DANEGOLD (R Hughes, 3-1 fav); 2, Saileg (T Dascombe, 10-1); 3, Fairy Knight (N Williamson, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 10-3 Night City (4th), 5 Mansur, 14 Hazaar, Iandra (5th), Second Step, 25 Jovie King, Music Please (6th), 33 Crustygun, Night Flare, 50 Mr Hemp, Murphy's Run, Not To Panic. 15 ran. 7l, hd, 6l, 4l, 4l. M Channon. Tote: £4.50; £2.30, £3.40, £1.10. DF: £16.10. Trio: £32.30. CSF: £35.15.

1.00 (2m hdle) 1, SEVERN GALE (X Aizpuru, 7-1); 2, Seasonal Splendour (A P McCoy, 9-2); 3, Pedaltothemetal (G Tormey, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 15-8 fav Dark Nightingale, Henrietta Howard (4th), 12 Daily Sport Girl (5th), 100 Cosmic Star (6th). 7 ran. 1½l, 1¼l, 20l, 13l, 1½l. J Allen. Tote: £12.10; £2.50, £2.40. DF: £21.40. CSF: £36.84.

1.30 (3m ch) 1, FLOW (B Powell, 2-1 fav); 2, Secret Bid (P Henley, 10-1); 3, Garethson (D Bridgwater, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Highland Jack (5th), 6 Dukes Meadow (fell), 12 Shentimar (pu), 14 Ballyedward (4th), 33 The Herbivore (pu), 40 Lord Antrim (pulled up). 9 ran. NR: General Salute, Kingsmill Quay. 1¾l, 25l, hd, 30l. R Buckler at Bridport. Tote: £3.10; £1.10, £4.70, £1.50. DF: £21.90. Trio: £34.80. CSF: £20.33.

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, PROTON (A P McCoy, 7-1); 2, Desert Green (N Williamson, 15-8 fav); 3, Battleship Bruce (D Bridgwater, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 7 Ottavio Farnese (6th), Zapo (pulled up), 12 I'm A Dreamer (5th), 20 Ki Chi Saga, 33 Reverse Thrust, 50 Braydon Forest, 66 Colonessy (pulled up), Ilsley Star, Master Goodenough, Seminole Wind, Zadok (4th). 14 ran. 9l, 18l, 8l, 4l, 4l. R Akehurst at Epsom. Tote: £7.80; £1.40, £1.30, £1.60. DF: £8.00. Trio: £9.70. CSF: £19.21.

2.30 (2m ch) 1, ZEREDAR (C O'Dwyer, 4-5 fav); 2, Dear Do (M A Fitzgerald, 9-4); 3, Who's To Say (N Williamson, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 10 King Credo (pulled up). 4 ran. 6l, 12l. K Bailey at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £1.90. DF: £1.50. CSF: £3.08.

3.00 (2m 5f ch) 1, ACT OF PARLIAMENT (Mr R Wakley, 100-30); 2, Rex To The Rescue (Mr R Thornton, 6-1); 3, Cookes (Mr J Tizzard, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 fav Wilkins (4th), 10-3 Merry Panto (fell), 25 Call Me Early (pulled up), 33 Whippers Delight (5th). 7 ran. 2l, 6l, 7l, 19l. K Bailey at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £3.20; £2.00, £1.60. DF: £9.00. CSF: £21.48.

3.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, LETS BE FRANK (M A Fitzgerald, 5-2 fav); 2, Racheal's Owen (M Richards, 12-1); 3, Relative Chance (N Williamson, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 7-2 August Twelfth (4th), 5 Dontdressfordinner, 14 Cambo, 16 Dahlia's Best, Durshan (6th), 20 Super Ritchart, 25 Prize Match, 50 Policemans Pride (5th), Pyrrhic Dance, Wil James. 13 ran. 2½l, 11l, 3½l, 2l, 9l. N Chance at Lambourn. Tote: £4.60; £1.40, £4.40, £1.30. DF: £32.60. Trio: £31.30. CSF: £30.57. Tricast: £102.78.

Placepot: £110.80. Quadpot: £14.50.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.10 (1m) 1, TATIKA (G Milligan, 6-4 fav); 2, Bentico (15-2); 3, Double Blue (9-1). ALSO RAN: 16 Barbason (4th). 10 ran. 5l, 3l. G Wragg. Tote: £2.40; £1.60, £2.60, £2.20. DF: £6.20. Trio: £18.10. CSF: £12.92.

12.40 (6f) 1, SIHAFI (A Clark, 16-1); 2, Never Think Twice (15-2); 3, River Seine (20-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Invocation, 40 Logie Pert Lad (4th). 13 ran. Nk, ¾l. J Carr. Tote: £21.70; £7.40, £2.20, £8.90. DF: £46.20. Trio: Not won. CSF: £128.01. Tricast: £2,242.13.

1.10 (5f) 1, SCISSOR RIDGE (S Sanders, 5-1); 2, Kalar (7-1); 3, Napier Star (6-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 fav Chemcast (4th). 9 ran. NR: Gracious Gretclo. 1l, 1¼l. J Bridger. Tote: £7.30; £2.30, £3.20, £2.70. DF: £18.10. Trio: £31.60. CSF: £35.29. Tricast: £194.10.

1.40 (2m) 1, MATTHIAS MYSTIQUE (S Sanders, 5-2); 2, Miss Prism (2-1 fav); 3, Supreme Star (7-1). ALSO RAN: 14 Suitor (4th). 12 ran. 6l, 7l. Miss B Sanders. Tote: £3.60; £1.20, £1.20, £2.80. DF: £4.50. Trio: £7.90. CSF: £8.19.

2.10 (1m) 1, QUEEN OF ALL BIRDS (A Daly, 11-4); 2, Night Wink (Evens fav); 3, Barossa Valley (10-1). ALSO RAN: 14 Blue Flyer (4th). 8 ran. NR: Cool Fire. 5l, 3l. R Boss. Tote: £4.50; £1.10, £1.30, £1.60. DF: £4.50. Trio: £12.00. CSF: £5.71.

2.40 (6f) 1, URSA MAJOR (M Wigham, 15-8); 2, Share Delight (7-4 fav); 3, Ekaterini Paritsa (20-1). ALSO RAN: 9 Forgotten Times (4th). 11 ran. NR: Churchill's Shadow. 6l, 1½l. P Kelleway. Tote: £2.70; £1.60, £1.20, £2.10. DF: £2.90. Trio: £19.40. CSF: £5.58.

3.10 (6f) 1, HALBERT (P McCabe, 20-1); 2, Mystery Matthias (6-1); 3, Colston-C (10-1). ALSO RAN: 100-30 fav Tachycardia, 9 Samsolom (4th). 12 ran. NR: Miss Pickpocket. ½l, hd. P Burgoyne. Tote: £19.90; £3.10, £1.70, £3.50. DF: £110.90. Trio: £120.20 - part won. CSF: £104.58. Tricast: £880.70. Miss Pickpocket (7-1) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies all bets, deduct 10p in pound.

3.40 (1m 4f) 1, FILIAL (Miss J Allison, 8-1); 2, General Haven (7-1); 3, Don't Drop Bombs (11-2). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Colosse, 8 No Pattern (4th). 9 ran. 7l, 3½l. B Meehan. Tote: £11.20; £3.80, £2.10, £1.80. DF: £80.80. Trio: £126.20. CSF: £56.57. Tricast: £305.13.

Placepot: £118.20. Quadpot: £4.30.

☐ Leicester abandoned — fog

Nicholson's graduate shines

XAVIER AIZPURU, who was born in England of Spanish parents, became the latest student of the David Nicholson academy to graduate when riding his first winner at Windsor yesterday.

Aizpuru, 21, showed how much he had learned from his tutor by beating the champion jockey, Tony McCoy, to land a gamble on Severn Gale.

Aizpuru was in front virtually throughout and, when McCoy loomed large on Seasonal Splendour, he determinedly drove out Severn Gale for a 1½-length victory in the Paley Street Mares' Handicap Hurdle.

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EXETER

THUNDERER

12.50 Time Leader
1.20 Fenwick
1.50 Squire Silk
2.20 Andre Laval
2.50 The Land Agent
3.20 Embley Buoy

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.50 TRIPLEPRINT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,157: 2m 2f) (7 runners)

1	6F210-1	URBAN LILY 17 (B,C,G,S) (Mrs C Cole) R Hodges 6-11-10	J Harris (6)	90
2	P40P-11	BURLINGTON SAM 24 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Rees) A Hobbs 8-11-9	O Burrows	93
3	450-054	KAREN'S TYPHOON 43 (BF) (So Horse Power) P Hobbs 5-10-12	G Tormey (3)	97
4	00F-634	TIME LEADER 7 (Big Time Boys) R Dickin 4-10-10	X Aizpuru (9)	93
5	5222-64	ELEANORA MUSE 15 (M Trott) P Farrell 6-10-6	Guy Lewis	●
6	P0P-0FP	UPHAM RASCAL 10 (R Brankworth) D Gandolfo 5-10-0	D Fortt (3)	92
7	00065-0	MADAM ROSE 11 (S Mullins) J Mullins 6-10-0	David Turner (8)	83

BETTING: 9-4 Burlington Sam, 11-4 Urban Lily, 9-2 Time Leader, 5-1 Karen's Typhoon, Eleanora Muse, 20-1 Upham Rascal, 25-1 Madam Rose

1995: HIGHTOWN CAVALIER 4-9-5 J Harris (14-1) R Hodges 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

URBAN LILY beat subsequent winner Yet Again ½l in 6-runner selling hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, heavy). BURLINGTON SAM, on hat-trick, beat Hacketts Cross 3½l in 14-runner conditional jockeys selling handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good to firm). KAREN'S TYPHOON distant 4th of 6 to Crown Ivory in novice handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110y, firm). TIME LEADER 12¼l 4th of 13 to Allow in conditional jockeys novice handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good). ELEANORA MUSE 12¼l 4th of 5 to Waylares Way in novice handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good). UPHAM RASCAL 35l last of 7 to Bayerd in maiden hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, soft) on last completed outing.
Selection: URBAN LILY (nap)

1.20 BONUSPRINT SELLING HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,469: 2m 2f) (11 runners)

1	1P/P	TAPAGEUR 30 (F,G,S) (M Pipe) M Pipe 11-12-0	B Moore (7)	–
2	5331/F	GLENTOWER 30 (G) (Brewers Arms) C Popham 8-11-9	A Maguire	–
3	441243	FENWICK 3 (F,G,S) (A Pearn) R Hodges 9-11-6	T Dascombe (3)	90
4	1311/5	OCTOBER BREW 107 (B,G,S) (M Pipe) M Pipe 6-11-5	A P McCoy	–
5	0/5PPP-U	THE WHOLE HOG 9 (Mrs S Nelson) K Bailey 7-10-11	Mr R Wakley (7)	–
6	00-45P3	CASTLECONNER 9 (B) (Mrs G Robarts) R Frost 5-10-8	Mr A Holdsworth	–
7	2-P6134	AKIYMANN 84 (B,F) (Pipe Racing) M Pipe 6-10-4	G Supple (7)	98
8	225-030	JEWEL THIEF 23 (V,F) (Mrs G Balding) G Balding 6-10-3	R Greene	–
9	P053-46	JHAL FREZI 30 (Mrs R Heeley) A Barrow 8-10-2	A Procter	●
10	524P3P	UP THE TEMPO 4 (Wyvern Racing) P Farrell 7-10-0	Guy Lewis (3)	–
11	4P5-P2P	CAPTAIN STOCKFORD 6 (P Wegmann) P Wegmann 9-10-0	W Marston	92

Long handicap: Up The Tempo 9-9, Captain Stockford 9-7

BETTING: 7-2 Fenwick, 4-1 Tapageur, 5-1 Glentower, 7-1 October Brew, Akiymann, 10-1 The Whole Hog, 12-1 others

1995: SOPHISM 6-11-7 J Evans (11-2) M Pipe 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

TAPAGEUR, pulled up on last two starts, previously completed five-timer with 25l defeat of Giack Castle in 5-runner novice chase at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm). GLENTOWER beat Castle Court 7l in 9-runner novice handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good). FENWICK 22¼l 3rd of 6 to The Lancer in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (3m 110y, heavy). OCTOBER BREW distant 5th of 8 to Dubelle in novice chase here (2m 3f, firm). CASTLECONNER 15l 3rd of 14 to Dragonmist in selling hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110y, soft). AKIYMANN about 7l 4th of 6 to Little Tincture in novice handicap hurdle at Worcester (3m, good to firm). JEWEL THIEF 81l 8th of 12 to Porphyrios in handicap chase at Worcester (2m, good). JHAL FREZI distant 6th of 14 to Seymourswift in novice hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 6f, heavy).
Selection: FENWICK

1.50 TRIPLEPRINT NOVICES CHASE
(£5,047: 2m 2f) (10 runners)

1	10002-1	LIVELY KNIGHT 20 (B) (A Weller) J Gifford 7-11-6	P Hide	●
2	PP	ASHLEY HOUSE 14 (B Hammond) B Millman 7-11-0	D Salter (5)	–
3	5/5434-	FLIPPANCE 219 (C Rykens) N Gaselee 6-11-0	W Marston	–
4	20100-4	KINO'S CROSS 31 (S) (N Harvey) A J Wilson 7-11-0	A Maguire	–
5	6501-22	PHAR FROM FUNNY 15 (BF,F) (Mrs E Haycock) G Balding 5-11-0	A P McCoy	–
6	10000-5	PURBECK CAVALIER 30 (S) (B Curtis) R Alner 7-11-0		66
7	521201-	ROBINS PRIDE 268 (G,S) (R Weeks) C Popham 6-11-0	T Dascombe (3)	–
8	404155-	SQUIRE SILK 251 (F,G,S) (R Ogden) A Turnell 7-11-0	R Dunwoody	–
9	241F1-3	WILD WEST WIND 20 (BF,G,S) (Lord Vestey) Miss H Knight 6-11-0	J Osborne	75
10	0/11256-	GUINDA 258 (F) (Mrs J Powell) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-9	C Llewellyn	–

BETTING: 4-6 Squire Silk, 11-4 Lively Knight, 10-1 Phar From Funny, 12-1 Purbeck Cavalier, Guinda, 14-1 Kino's Cross, Wild West Wind, 16-1 others

1995: PIMBERLEY PLACE 7-11-0 C Llewellyn (3-1) N Twiston-Davies 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

LIVELY KNIGHT beat Mister Drum ½l in 10-runner novice chase at Huntingdon with WILD WEST WIND (6lb better off) 29l 3rd (2m 4f 110y, good). KINO'S CROSS 38½l 4th of 8 to Brazil Or Bust in novice chase at Warwick (2m, good to firm). PHAR FROM FUNNY 2l 2nd of 4 to Marsteck in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good). ROBINS PRIDE beat Steel Gem 5l in 11-runner handicap hurdle (2m 1f, soft). SQUIRE SILK, top-class hurdler and winner of Tote Gold Trophy, 14¼l 5th of 8 to Urubande in Grade I Martell Aintree Hurdle (3m 4f, good). GUINDA 25½l 6th of 19 to Daraydan in novice handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, heavy).
Selection: LIVELY KNIGHT

2.20 BONUSPRINT HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,192: 2m 7f 110yd) (11 runners)

1	2/466-54	SPUFFINGTON 13 (G,S) (J Clopet) J Gifford 8-11-11	P Hide	97
2	PFF5B4-	GHIA GNEUIAGH 217 (F,G,S) (Mrs S Scott) N Twiston-Davies 10-11-10	C Llewellyn	95
3	-11-1	ANDRE LAVAL 15 (G,S) (Mrs C Wright) K Bailey 7-11-10	Mr R Wakley (7)	●
4	1113-26	GARRYLOUGH 35 (BF,G,S) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 7-11-10	R Dunwoody	95
5	23204-1	BALLYEA BOY 22 (G) (D Barry) D Nicholson 6-11-3	A Maguire	98
6	/1452/1	ORSWELL LAD 17 (S) (R Wright) P Hobbs 7-11-2	G Tormey (3)	91
7	15UU2/4-	MR INVADER 377 (S) (M Boddington) N Gaselee 9-10-13	W Marston	85
8	122/1-64	KINDLE'S DELIGHT 20 (C,F,G) (Castle Farm Stud) Miss H Knight 8-10-12	J Osborne	93
9	3331P-1	SPECIAL ACCOUNT 40 (C,F,G,S) (T Flodin) C Barwell 10-10-8	A P McCoy	95
10	/1022/3-	RED PARADE 387 (S) (R J Peake) N Hawke 8-10-6	R Greene	87
11	2335/24	ROCKY PARK 17 (BF,S) (T Geake) G Balding 10-10-3	B Fenton	93

BETTING: 5-2 Andre Laval, 3-1 Ballyea Boy, 8-1 Spuffington, Orswell Lad, Special Account, 10-1 Ghia Gneuiagh, Rocky Park, 12-1 others

1995: HARWELL LAD 6-10-9 Mr R Nuttall (5-4) R Alner 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

SPUFFINGTON 19¾l 4th of 7 to Fools Errand in handicap chase at Towcester (2m 6f, good). GHIA GNEUIAGH distant 4th of 6 to Diamond Fort in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (3m 2f 110y, soft). ANDRE LAVAL beat Beaurepaire 1½l in 4-runner handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110y, good). GARRYLOUGH 23¾l 6th of 8 to Major Bell in handicap chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110y, good to soft).
BALLYEA BOY beat Ardcroney Chief neck in 5-runner handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, good). ORSWELL LAD beat Foxtrot Romeo short-head in 8-runner novice handicap chase (3m 5f 110y, heavy). MR INVADER 26l 4th of 9 to Gilpa Valu in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good). KINDLE'S DELIGHT 12½l 4th of 6 to Too Plush in handicap chase at Windsor (2m 5f, good to firm). SPECIAL ACCOUNT beat Frozen Drop ¾l in 7-runner handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110y, good to firm). RED PARADE 14l 3rd of 7 to Stoney Burke in novice chase at Hereford (3m 1f 110y, good). ROCKY PARK 30½l 4th of 8 to Flow in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (3m 2f 110y).
Selection: BALLYEA BOY

2.50 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND TRIPLEPRINT NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £4,020: 2m 2f) (12 runners)

1	0-0P	FAIR HAUL 8 (Mrs G Robarts) R Frost 5-11-0	Mr A Holdsworth	–
2	50-	FLAXLEY WOOD 244 (Mrs D La Trobe) R Buckler 5-11-0	B Fenton	–
3	00-	LEAP FROG 258 (R Cooper) N Gaselee 5-11-0	W Marston	–
4		MASTER BOMBER (D Fear) R Alner 5-11-0	J Osborne	–
5	30-	MYLINK 321 (S Constable) D Nicholson 6-11-0	A Maguire	–
6	04/04P-0	PALLADIUM BOY 17 (Palladium Ltd) Mrs J Retter 6-11-0	G Upton	79
7	21	OUINI EAGLE 16 (S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 4-11-0	A P McCoy	–
8	6401-00	SIR DANTE 16 (F) (P Witty) R Rowe 5-11-0	D O'Sullivan	●
9	31-	THE LAND AGENT 237 (S) (Mrs H Bare) J Mullins 5-11-0	S Curran	–
10	1-2	WADE ROAD 27 (BF,F) (Lord Chelsea) Miss H Knight 5-11-0	R Dunwoody	–
11	0-F06P	LILLY THE FILLY 38 (E Dawes) Mrs G Waring 5-10-9	P Hide	–
12	0	SHRIMP 40 (D Mattes) R Alner 5-10-9	C Llewellyn	–

BETTING: 5-4 Ouini Eagle, 7-2 Wade Road, 5-1 Mylink, 7-1 The Land Agent, 8-1 Sir Dante, 14-1 Palladium Boy, 16-1 others

1995: HIGH LEARIE 5-11-0 J A McCarthy (16-1) O Sherwood 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

LEAP FROG 62l 7th of 14 to French Holly in National Hunt Flat race at Newbury (2m 110y, heavy). MYLINK 5½l 3rd of 19 to Just One Question in National Hunt Flat race at Naas (2m, good) on penultimate run. OUINI EAGLE beat Jack Gallagher 1¾l in 20-runner National Hunt Flat race at Kempton (2m, good to soft). SIR DANTE 13l 8th of 16 to Not For Turning in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to soft). THE LAND AGENT beat Ever Blessed 11l in 12-runner National Hunt Flat race at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, soft). WADE ROAD 1l 2nd of 14 to Mr Markham in National Hunt Flat race at Sandown (2m 110y, good).
Selection: WADE ROAD

3.20 BONUSPRINT HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,175: 2m 2f) (11 runners)

1	13123F-	FIRST CENTURY 367 (C,F,G,S) (Merton Auctions) B Palling 7-11-11	R Dunwoody	90
2	6/0142-2	BEYOND OUR REACH 8 (F,G,S) (Mrs P Bradshaw) R Hodges 8-11-9	T Dascombe (3)	●
3	P212R-1	BARRYBEN 18 (G,S) (Mrs M Brisbourne) W Brisbourne 7-11-8	R Massey (3)	90
4	113-004	DOMINION'S DREAM 6 (V,F,G,S) (Pipe Racing) M Pipe 4-11-7	G Supple (7)	88
5	25/1P-1	JEFFERIES 13 (G) (Miss S Blumberg) J Old 7-11-7	G Upton	90
6	110-240	THE BLACK MONK 102 (CD,F,G,S) (Pipe Racing) M Pipe 8-11-0	B Moore (7)	88
7	432-301	HANDSON 19 (G,S) (Burrow Racing) B Millman 4-10-13	D Salter (5)	95
8	111/P64-	FONTAINEROUGE 247 (G) (Mrs T Tipper) G Balding 6-10-8	A P McCoy	84
9	06201P/	CLASSIC PAL 553 (G) (P Tory) N Mitchell 5-10-1	D Skyrme	–
10	0P-2184	EMBLEY BUOY 27 (G,S) (Mrs H Bate) J Mullins 8-10-0	S Curran	94
11	424/55-0	INDIAN TEMPLE 16 (D Clarke) K Bishop 5-10-0	R Greene	89

Long handicap: Embley Buoy 9-13, Indian Temple 9-7

BETTING: 3-1 Handson, 7-2 Barryben, 9-2 Jefferies, 5-1 Beyond Our Reach, 10-1 Dominion's Dream, Fontainerouge, First Century, 12-1 others

1995: SPRING SAINT 6-11-8 C Maude (4-1) Miss C Horler 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

FIRST CENTURY 10l 3rd of 9 to File Concord in handicap chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110y, good to soft) on penultimate start. BEYOND OUR REACH neck 2nd of 8 to Road To Au Bon in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110y, good to firm). BARRYBEN beat General Tonic 3l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Leicester (3m 4f 110y, good to soft). DOMINION'S DREAM 15½l 4th of 7 to Out Ranking in claiming hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, good). JEFFERIES beat Domino's Ring 2½l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, good). HANDSON beat Robert's Toy neck in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110y, good). FONTAINROUGE 30¾l 4th of 8 to Mitzcaldi in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good to firm). EMBLEY BUOY 9½l 4th of 9 to River Room in novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good).
Selection: JEFFERIES

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Miss H Knight	29	85	34.1	J Osborne	20	74	27.0
M Pipe	72	272	26.5	R Dunwoody	33	135	24.4
R Rowe	3	12	25.0	A P McCoy	17	90	18.9
P Hobbs	23	72	19.0	G Upton	7	68	10.3
K Bailey	9	48	18.8	C Llewellyn	6	60	10.0
Mrs J Retter	10	77	13.0	R Greene	5	50	10.0

☐ The meeting at Leicester yesterday was abandoned because of thick fog. The stewards tried repeatedly to save the card, putting back racing by an hour, but visibility of only 50 yards made the decision to abandon inevitable.

هكذا عن الأصل

Porto can end United's dream of European glory

BOBBY ROBSON

Manchester United will be feeling pretty pleased with themselves after they qualified from the group stages of the European Cup on Wednesday. However, although I don't want to be the one to spoil the party, I think they are going to have a difficult time getting any further than the last eight.

I took the FC Porto team they will play in the quarter-finals to two Portuguese championships when I was in charge there. This season, if anything, they have an even stronger side and, over the two games, I think there is a very good chance they will put United out. In fact, after Juventus, who stand out by a distance, I would say Porto are the best club in the competition.

The club president, Pinto de Costa, is desperate to win three domestic titles in a row, something the club has never done before, and he has brought in new players — players I recommended before I left to take over at Barcelona — to help them to do it.

The nucleus of the team I was in charge of is still there, but they have brought in the Brazilian, Jardel, in attack. In the air, in particular, he is a stunning player. Alongside him, they have got two more Brazilians — Artur, who is very quick and likes going past people, and Edmilson, who is an extremely clever player. The three of them would be a handful for anybody.

Their central defender, Jorge Costa, has been in the news recently because he was head-butted by George Weah after Porto's game against AC Milan. He is a good fellow to have in your team and particularly good in the air. He does not shirk anything.

Of course, they lost Emerson to Middlesbrough at the end of last season and I took their goalkeeper, Vitor Baia, with me to Barcelona, but they seem to have spent well and are having another good season. Nobody gave them a chance in the European Cup, but they have got five victories and one draw out of six games. Not bad, is it?

They will give United more than a game when they meet next year. I know the team, I know the club and I know the situation. They know how to play the first of the two games well and then they will fire on all cylinders when they get back to Portugal.

It will be especially difficult for United in Oporto because they have determination and ambition and the crowd will be phenomenal and very noisy — even though the city is particularly pro-British.

More than that, their players seem to relish big matches. When they go to Old Trafford, they will defend, they will absorb pressure and, above all else, they will not crack. Sometimes, you find yourselves with players who do not stand up as well as they should on big occasions and the night gets to them; in Porto's case, that will not happen.

I took them to Werder Bremen, the German champions, in my first year there and we beat them 5-0 to get to the semi-finals of the European Cup. That told me something about the resolve of that team. Going to Manchester United will be great for those boys. They will love it.

I knew it would be difficult for United against Juventus — that was obvious to anyone — but I was surprised about the Fenerbahçe result at Old Trafford, when United lost 1-0. I thought they should have done better. Also, they have to learn that they cannot approach away games in Europe like they would a trip to Wimbledon or Nottingham Forest.

I know United won two of their away games in the group matches, but they are still less adept than the top continental teams at playing matches away from home. That is where they might lose out to Porto, who will change their system when they come to Manchester. They will almost certainly leave out one of the front three players and put in an extra-covering midfield player or a defender instead.

Liverpool were masters at winning European matches over two legs, but for all the English teams now, it is a learning experience all over again and they are still behind the rest.

I want to make it clear, too, that, as far as I am concerned, Ronaldo will not be in the United team for those two matches. I know he has been linked with them, but he is not interested in leaving Barcelona. He is wonderfully adored and popular here and he has just bought a new house.

United want Miguel Angel Nadal, but they will not pay £4 million for him so how could they pay £20 million for Ronaldo? I doubt they could match his contract here, anyway, and, if they did, they would have a time bomb on their hands, because players such as Cantona and Giggs would be saying: "What about me?"

As for Emerson coming to Barcelona from Middlesbrough, I know nothing about it. People keep asking me if I know where he is, but I have never spoken to him. As far as I know, he could be in Timbuktu.

Edwards applauds his stylish composition

BY ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IN THE stadium where, 44 years ago, Nat Lofthouse's extreme bravery earned him the Lion of Vienna eulogy, the cubs of Manchester United made Wednesday their night. Beating Rapid Vienna, with two goals of subtlety and class from Ryan Giggs and Eric Cantona, they became the first English team to reach the last eight of Europe's premier club competition since the ill-fated year of 1985, the year of Heysel.

It takes something to progress these days, something wrapped in millions and millions of pounds. But, since the European Cup is the competition on which credibility is judged, since what we are looking at now is the Champions of Commerce League, it was fitting that Martin Edwards, the chairman and paymaster of Manchester United, should have been the one to sum it up succinctly.

"They have shown what they can become," Edwards said. "The belief comes from results like this. I saw signs that, when the United team have to do it, when the pressures are on, they can perform."

Edwards had sat like the rest, as cold as the stone statue of Franz Schubert, whose lyrical compositions remain the essence of high-minded Austrian elegance. There was elegance, too, about United.

After much profligacy, and some considerable nervousness, they flowed through the green ranks of a Rapid Vienna side that had avoided defeat to any European comer, Juventus included, for their past 15 European home ties. Apart from the goals there was, on the half-hour, the sweetest of expressions from United. The ball moved with the imagination of Keane, Irwin, Cantona, Gary Neville and Beckham — half the United side — with passing that bewitched the home players. It was born of the kind of confidence that after the past few troubled weeks one would not have expected from this United team.

Perhaps, just perhaps, the pendulum is swinging. England's supremecy, largely through Liverpool, is a relic of pre-Heysel times. But now, with help from our imported friends and with the easing of the restriction on foreign players, the English are back among the nations that count. In the three European competitions, Spain has four clubs in the quarter-finals, France, Italy and England have three.

Ferguson: ready to buy?

Whisper it gently, for we cannot afford a relapse into arrogance, but it seems that English clubs are regaining admiration across the Continent. Certainly Manchester United, a commercial force outgrowing even AC Milan, were laughing yesterday when the Stock Exchange reopened with an immediate leap of 12p on United shares, taking them to 585p. That financial power may have to be spent between now and March 5, when FC Porto visit Old Trafford.

Even Edwards conceded: "We don't budget for cup success and anything we get from that is a bonus. There is a transfer window now, it is up to the manager now, but if he wants to strengthen the squad we are more than capable of supporting him."

That capability will inevitably raise the price at any door that Alex Ferguson chooses to knock on. But will United now buy a centre forward, if not in the image of Lofthouse, then of someone in the mould of Fabrizio Ravanelli.

He is allegedly not available. Ferguson has told his former captain, Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, that he will not procure Ravanelli from the Riverside. Yet Ravanelli is just the kind of powerful finisher who could convert the chances that United squandered in Vienna, and from a European perspective he is not cup-tied.

For reaching the quarter-finals from the Champions' League, for winning three games at £500,000 with a share-out of television and appearance money, United have already banked close to £3 million in Europe this season, plus gate receipts approaching £1 million a match. They will probably double that money in March and, who knows, now that the competition becomes a knockout affair, the pavements may be paved with gold towards a final in Munich on May 28th.

Dreaming makes such pleasant music. "The Dream of Happiness" is an exhibition running in Vienna; it could also be the sensation that the United players, remarkably after losing concentration and self-belief in November, are beginning to savour.

Their young faces, peering out of the team bus as it left the Ernst Happel Stadium on Wednesday to choruses of appreciation, contrasted vividly to the stoning, the haranguing with beer cans, bricks and other objects that ushered Milan out of the tournament after defeat at the San Siro.

What folly Silvio Berlusconi, so recently the Italian prime minister and so hasty in football matters, had perpetrated? Last Sunday, so close to the judgment day, he changed managers, losing faith in Oscar Tabarez after only a few months and persuading Arrigo Sacchi to abandon his post as the Italy coach. Sacchi came in just as Milan went out and the £6 million contemplation of Milan versus Juventus was down the drain.

Paolo Maldini, the emperor of defenders who has lost the fine cloak of his form throughout this year, could face the most astonishing turnaround in personal fortunes. His father, Cesare, will coach Italy against England at Wembley on February 12th; Machiavelli could not have devised a plot more intricate than father having to drop son from what could be his one and only night in charge.

The wheel of fortune rattles along. Manchester United are in there with Borussia Dortmund, Auxerre, Ajax, Atlético Madrid, Porto, Rosenborg and, still the champions, still the likely victors, Juventus. Another enemy for the house of Berlusconi.

ROSS KINNAIRD / ALLSPORT

Cantona, right, is embraced by Keane and Irwin, left, after scoring the second goal

Tottenham complete transfer of Iversen

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

ON WEDNESDAY night, Steffen Iversen helped Rosenborg win 2-1 against AC Milan in the magnificent San Siro stadium, in Italy. It gave the Norwegian champions a surprise quarter-final berth in the European Cup. Yesterday, no more than ten hours later, he arrived in England to complete his move to Tottenham Hotspur, a club in apparent crisis in the FA Carling Premiership.

The stark contrast was not lost on Iversen, scorer of 13 goals in 17 matches for Norway Under-21s. The deal had already been done before Rosenborg's unexpected victory, however, and there was no going back.

Even the loss of a Caribbean holiday he had planned, to coincide with the end of the Norwegian season, was accepted with a philosophical shrug. "I had signed for Tottenham, no matter what happened in Italy," Iversen, a 6ft 2in striker, said. "I had a good impression of the club when I visited it recently and I hope I have made the right choice.

"I have had a long season at home; it started in April, and that's why I asked if I could have a vacation. I understand that it is not possible and I will just have to get on with it."

Iversen, 20, is likely to make his debut against Coventry City at Highfield Road on Saturday, replacing Chris Armstrong alongside Teddy Sheringham in the attack. Armstrong sustained a thigh injury in the 2-0 home defeat by Liverpool on Monday.

His absence temporarily relieves Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, of having to decide how to accommodate all three in his usual 4-4-2 formation. When Armstrong is fit, Sheringham will probably be given a more deep-lying role.

"I've spent a great deal of time and effort in getting Steffen here," Francis said. "Rosenborg had a lot of interest from other clubs but we did our homework and got to know him and his family while everyone else was sleeping."

Iversen, who has signed a five-year contract, joins Tottenham in a £2.5 million deal. Francis also revealed yesterday that Ian Walker had agreed a five-year extension to his existing contract, ending speculation that the England goalkeeper was unsettled at White Hart Lane.

"I'm glad to have sorted it out at last," Walker said. "Steffen joining us should give everyone a big lift, too."

[illegible]

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Auxerre	6	4	0	2	8	7	12
Ajax	6	4	0	2	8	4	12
GC Zurich	6	3	0	3	8	5	9
Rangers	6	1	0	5	5	13	3

RESULTS: Auxerre 0 Ajax 1; Grasshopper Zurich 3 Rangers 0; Rangers 1 Auxerre 2; Ajax 0 Grasshopper Zurich 1; Ajax 4 Rangers 1; Auxerre 1 Grasshopper Zurich 0; Grasshopper Zurich 3 Auxerre 1; Rangers 0 Ajax 1, Rangers 2 Grasshopper Zurich 1, Ajax 1 Auxerre 2; Grasshopper Zurich 0 Ajax 1; Auxerre 2 Rangers 1.

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atlh Madrid	6	4	1	1	12	4	13
B Dortmund	6	4	1	1	14	8	13
Wid Lodz	6	1	1	4	6	10	4
S Bucharest	6	1	1	4	5	15	4

RESULTS: Atlético Madrid 4 Steaua Bucharest 0; Borussia Dortmund 2 Widzew Lodz 1, Steaua Bucharest 0 Borussia Dortmund 3, Widzew Lodz 1 Atlético Madrid 4; Steaua Bucharest 1 Widzew Lodz 0; Atlético Madrid 0 Borussia Dortmund 1; Widzew Lodz 2 Steaua Bucharest 0; Borussia Dortmund 1 Atlético Madrid 2; Steaua Bucharest 1 Atlético Madrid 1; Widzew Lodz 2 Borussia Dortmund 2; Atlético Madrid 1 Widzew Lodz 0; Borussia Dortmund 5 Steaua Bucharest 3.

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	6	5	1	0	11	1	16
Man Utd	6	3	0	3	6	3	9
Fenerbahçe	6	2	1	3	3	6	7
R Vienna	6	0	2	4	2	12	2

RESULTS: Juventus 1 Manchester United 0; Rapid Vienna 1 Fenerbahçe 1; Manchester United 2 Rapid Vienna 0, Fenerbahçe 0 Juventus 1; Rapid Vienna 1 Juventus 1; Fenerbahçe 0 Manchester United 2; Juventus 5 Rapid Vienna 0; Manchester United 0 Fenerbahçe 1; Manchester United 0 Juventus 1; Fenerbahçe 1 Rapid Vienna 0; Rapid Vienna 0 Manchester United 2; Juventus 2 Fenerbahçe 0.

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	6	5	1	0	12	4	16
Rosenborg	6	3	0	3	7	11	9
AC Milan	6	2	1	3	13	11	7
Gothenburg	6	1	0	5	7	13	3

RESULTS: AC Milan 2 FC Porto 3; IFK Gothenburg 2 Rosenborg 3; FC Porto 2 IFK Gothenburg 1; Rosenborg 1 AC Milan 4; IFK Gothenburg 2 AC Milan 1; Rosenborg 0 FC Porto 1; AC Milan 4 IFK Gothenburg 2; FC Porto 3 Rosenborg 0; FC Porto 1 AC Milan 1; Rosenborg 1 IFK Gothenburg 0; AC Milan 1 Rosenborg 2; IFK Gothenburg 0 FC Porto 2.

QUARTER-FINALS: Borussia Dortmund v Auxerre; Ajax v Atlético Madrid; Rosenborg v Juventus; Manchester United v FC Porto.

First leg March 5; second leg March 19

SEMI-FINALS: Ajax or Atlético Madrid v Man Utd or FC Porto; Borussia Dortmund or Auxerre v Rosenborg or Juventus.

First leg April 9, second leg April 23

FINAL: May 28 (Munich).

Plymouth wait on Maugé

BY DAVID POWELL

IT MAY not be the free role with which Ronnie Maugé would wish to be associated, but he had more space in training yesterday than he could possibly have imagined at the start of the week. Remanded in custody for seven days last Friday, he was released on bail on Wednesday and the probability is that Maugé will serve 90 minutes in the Plymouth Argyle midfield in the FA Cup second-round derby at home to Exeter City tonight.

Maugé was held on charges of kidnapping, making threats to kill, possessing a sheath knife and a firearms offence. However, he was freed on condition that he stays out of Plymouth, except to play football and train, and that he lives in the Cornwall home of Neil Warnock, the Argyle manager.

Whether Maugé will play before Sky's live television cameras, in the most eagerly awaited West Country derby for more than a decade, will depend on two main factors, Warnock said: Maugé's mental state and the physical condition of two injured players. However, Warnock seemed to be leaning towards including Maugé, who scored the goal at Wembley last May that secured Plymouth promotion to the Nationwide League second division via the play-offs.

"If I could get away without playing him, I probably would, with what he has been through," Warnock said. "I have got him living with me so I can tell what kind of mind he is in. I have got one or two doubts and I will not honestly know until the afternoon."

Warnock felt duty-bound to back Maugé. "While we cannot talk about the charges, it was up to me to put my full support behind him," he said. The Maugé affair is the latest in a series of anxieties the club has suffered this season, including Warnock falling out with his chairman, Dan McCauley, Plymouth dropping near the relegation zone and the manager saying the club is in crisis.

Exeter, meanwhile, have risen from near the foot of the third division and are unbeaten in six matches. Peter Fox, the manager, is relishing the prospect of his club's first FA Cup victory over Plymouth. Each of the three previous encounters have ended 2-0 to Plymouth. "All the pressure is on them," Fox said yesterday. "They need to win. They have got to get through because they are the big club."

A crowd of 12,000 is likely and, for Exeter especially, the money is crucial. After two years in administration, the club is only beginning to recover from what Fox described as "an asset stripping task to head off complete closure".

Exeter expect to make £80,000 to £100,000 out of the tie. "We were budgeting for very little money out of the FA Cup and all of a sudden we have had a little windfall," Fox said. "We were seven minutes away from going to the wall, so for us now to be looking at this is tremendous."

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 006737 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF
CAPPER ENGINEERING
SERVICES LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 26th day of November 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £8,000,000 to £4,268,695 by the cancellation of 36,312,050 Issued Ordinary shares of £0.10 each in the capital of the Company.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar, at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 18th day of December 1996.

ANY creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the under-mentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 6th day of December 1996

Dibb Lupton Alsop of Carlton House, 18 Albert Square, Manchester M2 5FE, (Tel: 0161 834 7760), Ref: AH/JMG-5625.476, Solicitors for the above-named Company

NO: 006492 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF
BARUCCI LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was, on 14th November 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above named Company £203,520 to £7.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before The Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday 18th December 1996. Any creditor or shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of Share Premium Account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned solicitors on the payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED the 6th day of December 1996

Halliwell Landau, St James Court, Brown Street, Manchester M2 2JF.
Solicitors for the above named Company.
Tel: 0161 835 3003
Ref: PMA/NG.B6919.2

No. 006494 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER of
FORMSCAFF (UK) LIMITED
- and -
IN THE MATTER of
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the Fourteenth day of November 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company from £11,000,000 divided into 11,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each to £4,255,258 divided into 4,255,258 ordinary shares of £1 each.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand London, WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the Eighteenth day of December 1996.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of the share capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 5th day of December 1996

Theodore Goddard
150, Aldersgate Street,
London, EC1A 4EJ
Tel: 0171 606 8855
Solicitors for the above-named Company.
Ref: 584/591

The Insolvency Act 1986
VIBAC LIMITED
(In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 21st November 1996.

M.R. DORRINGTON, Liquidator

CAPITAL LIVING II PLC
(In Members Voluntary
Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Peter James Yeldon of Smith & Williamson, No. 1 Riding House Street, London W1A 3AS was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by the Members on 29th November 1996.

P J YELDON, Liquidator

No. 006496 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER of
PREMIER TRANSLINE BUILDING
SYSTEMS LIMITED
- and -
IN THE MATTER of
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the Fourteenth day of November 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company from £2,000,000 divided into 2,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each to £1,889,378 divided into 1,889,378 ordinary shares of £1 each.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand London, WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the Eighteenth day of December 1996.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the proposed reduction of the share capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 5th day of December 1996

Theodore Goddard
150, Aldersgate Street,
London, EC1A 4EJ
Tel: 0171 606 8855
Solicitors for the above-named Company.
Ref: 541/591

No. 006198/96
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF
AIR STUDIOS
(LYNDHURST) LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 13 November 1996 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £6,006,000 to £6,000,050 and the cancellation of the Share Premium Account and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 28 November 1996.

Dated this 3 day of December 1996

Harbottle & Lewis
Hanover House
14 Hanover Square
London W1R 0BE
Ref:68.89.169048
Tel: 0171 667 5000
Solicitors for the above-named Company

No. 006495 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER of
AAP CONSULTANTS LIMITED
- and -
IN THE MATTER of
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the Fourteenth day of November 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company from £100,000 divided into 100,000 ordinary shares of £1 each to £35,353 divided into 35,353 ordinary shares of £1 each.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand London, WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the Eighteenth day of December 1996.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the proposed reduction of the capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 5th day of December 1996

Theodore Goddard
150, Aldersgate Street,
London, EC1A 4EJ
Tel: 0171 606 8855
Solicitors for the above-named Company.
Ref: 584/591

No. 006497 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER of
PREMIER TRANSLINE HIRE
LIMITED
- and -
IN THE MATTER of
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the Fourteenth day of November 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company from £7,000,000 divided into 7,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each to £5,153,954 divided into 5,153,954 ordinary shares of £1 each.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand London, WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the Eighteenth day of December 1996.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of the share capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 5th day of December 1996

Theodore Goddard
150, Aldersgate Street,
London, EC1A 4EJ
Tel: 0171 606 8855
Solicitors for the above-named Company.
Ref: 584/591

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

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FOOTBALL: NEAL'S JOB IN DOUBT AS NEW POWER EMERGES AT MANCHESTER CITY

Capital gains count against Lee

By David Maddock

Boler promises that he will be quick to exert a significant influence at Maine Road. Photograph: News Team

MANCHESTER City shareholders yesterday voted to expand their share capital to allow Stephen Boler, a millionaire businessman, a 25 per cent stake in the company. The move signals, effectively, a loss of controlling interest in the club for Francis Lee, who will remain as chairman for the immediate future.

Boler will become the biggest single shareholder in the club when he takes up the rights issue in January. He will pay £5 million for approximately six million shares, as will John Wardle, of JD Sports, raising a total of £10 million, which will be made available for transfers.

As the sequence of events unravelled at the club's annual meeting, the long-term future of the club was gradually mapped out. Boler, while declining a place on the board, will be represented by Ashley Lewis, and will dictate the direction of the public limited company. He is hoping to take City back into the FA Carling Premiership and then float the company.

One of his first moves will be to address the problem of the club's management. Yesterday, in a statement to shareholders, he vowed to strengthen the leadership, and that will lead to an immediate search for a new manager. Phil Neal is in charge at present, but is unlikely to remain so.

Lewis, speaking at the meeting, said Boler, one of Britain's richest men, will play a significant role in the running of the club. "There will be changes," he said. "We will move forward with stronger management within the next few months. Stephen will be involved in decision making through regular meetings with the chairman, and will also help support the financial side of the club."

Lee, who took control of City three years ago on a wave of popular support, has been forced into something of a climbdown. Heralded as the man to bring back the good times to Maine Road, he has instead presided over one of the worst periods in the club's history. They have slumped to their lowest position in living memory, fourth from bottom of the Nationwide League first division, and their debts and liabilities now total in excess of £26 million.

He has, he said, been inhibited by a lack of capital, a situation that he claimed has now been resolved. "The cash investment will be made and we will get stuck in, give it a real go and see if we can make it work," Lee said. "If that is not good enough in 12 months' time, then I might have a look at my position. If we go down this season I won't have to, because I will have jumped off the stand."

Considering the parlous state of the club, Lee got off rather lightly at a meeting that usually provides fireworks. Still, the cynical City faithful had their moments, usually in the form of the weary irony in which the club's supporters are well versed. "I don't get much pleasure going to a football match at the moment," Lee said, as one line of defence. "We haven't for years," a supporter replied.

There was, however, a serious warning from Elliot Rashman, the manager of Simply Red, the pop group. "We need a reality check here, we are fourth bottom of the first division and the club has made ridiculous decisions over the past two years," he said. "This is a poor board, and they have taken this club down. Alan Ball was a disgraceful appointment."

Boler is likely to ensure such mistakes are not repeated. "We have taken advice, and we believe City have the financial potential to put them among the top six football clubs. Stephen believes we can achieve that," Lewis said. All Manchester City supporters are praying he is right.

When parting proves such sweet sorrow

LYNNE TRUSS

Kicking and Screaming

There is a ritual that takes place at football matches, about five minutes from the end. People start to stand up, tighten their scarves and head self-consciously towards the exit, sometimes shepherding small children, as if this forms a respectable excuse for their pathetic lack of backbone.

We purists let them go, of course; disdaining them, we nevertheless stand up to let them squeeze past. We forbear to mention that if they did this sort of thing at *The Seagull*, they would never know Konstantin shoots himself. But when they have finally gone (they sometimes linger at the top of steps, indulging in a last, wistful look) we cross our arms, renew our flagging interest in the game and pray hard for that great, late goal that will go down in footy history; the goal that those perfidious namby-pambies will hear from the car-park, making them feel sick.

I left a match early on Saturday, you see. And I was torn. But it was Sheffield Wednesday v West Ham United at Hillsborough, a goalless draw of the worst variety, in which a heavy ball ricocheted tiresomely back and forth between rival players — with three stupid transactions to every intelligent one.

As entertainment, it was as frustrating as hearing amnesiacs recount the plot of *Pulp Fiction*; or watching Laurel and Hardy get the piano up the steps. Only when I made my momentous decision to leave did I realise that I had just spent 85 minutes with my hands on my head, trying to pull myself up physically by the hair.

So I figured thus: if I walked fast I could reach the car in three minutes and be listening to Radio 5 Live on the road before the others even came out.

Could I live with myself if Konstantin pulled the trigger in my absence? Normally, no. But the lure of the M1 was too much. If he shot himself today, I decided, I would send him a postcard from Newport Pagnell.

God, it was boring. West Ham supporters jeered "what a load of rubbish" and nobody disagreed; in fact, most people nodded grimly. When teams play as badly as this — making no space, huddling together in knots — a horrible thing happens: they appear to multiply on the pitch.

At one point in the second half, I could swear there were 40 of them down there. "It's too crowded," I said to nobody in particular. "Send half of them off, that would get things moving."

The best bit was the music. The cheerful Kop band relentlessly played their walls-of-Jericho stuff, with sackbut, trumpet and drum, but it is often like this: their warm, exotic beat made no difference to the leaden performance on the pitch. In fact, the disparity between the support and the play became quite disturbing — it suggested a level of denial dangerous to the psyche.

Meanwhile, the dour Wednesday supporter beside me just remarked with a curled lip: "Making *notes*?" I smiled inanely, which presumably confirmed his suspicions. Only a girl would make notes at a match such as this one.

So, with five minutes left, I sneaked out. And despite the guilt, it was the best moment of the afternoon. Outside in the dark, I joined a warm flood of early-leavers and found more space and movement than I had seen inside in the whole game.

'I was torn, but it was a goalless draw of the worst variety'

While the steadfast purists continued to murmur the odd "oooh!" within, we namby-pambies ran away from the stadium in all directions, as if Bruce Willis had just told us it was about to explode.

Of course, the rest of the week it has been footy every night, which helped to heal the wound. "Can't go out, it's footy," was a sentence I never thought I would say. "Got to get home now, it's footy" — there's another.

I have been phoning people to chuckle over McManaman's goal against Tottenham Hotspur on Monday, to admire Beckham's sterling work on Wednesday for Manchester United; or to wax indignant about the vicious fouling on Sunday between Chelsea and Leeds United. "Why don't they just give them guns?" I say, wildly (I still haven't hit the right tone for footy banter).

But this is, of course, the real pleasure of this job. Just as becoming freelance was a means of finding out what cats do all day, in learning about football I am finding out what men do with their entire lives. And it is fascinating. It turns out that there is a footy organ in the brain (and we have all got it) that starts very small but has potential to expand infinitely, bigger and bigger, usurping the entire consciousness at last — and men have no control over it. Tragically, they lack the vital footy suppressor hormone!

I am so glad I found out. This footy organ is to blame for all sorts of things that alienate the non-footy person. It thrives, for example, on the casual substitution of "Crazy Gang" for "Wimbledon" or "Loftus Road" for "QPR". Catching up with this lingo is not easy, you know, if your footy suppressor hormone has been doing its job since birth. Before September, Old Trafford and Stamford Bridge were the only stadiums I knew by name. St James' Park was a place to feed ducks. The idea of Owls being beaten by Hammers would have conjured up an alarming picture in my mind.

Now that my own footy organ has been jump-started, however, I am excperiencing first-hand the blank looks I formerly gave, and it is weird. In a travel agent's in Brighton on Tuesday afternoon, I was chatting with two nice women about typhoid jabs, when my football pager buzzed thrillingly in my pocket. I drew it out. "Emerson has gone AWOL again!" I announced, delightedly. And they looked at me as if I had just spoken in dog language. I said: "Are you not interested in football, then?" And it was quite astonishing: they really, really were not.

Emerson keeps Middlesbrough waiting

By Peter Ball

IT SOUNDS like a novel about flying by Captain W. E. Johns — *Emerson Fails to Return*. Certainly, the saga of Middlesbrough's missing midfielder is rapidly becoming long enough to fill a book, with the Brazilian adding another chapter yesterday when he failed again to board a plane back to England from Rio, leaving his relationship with the club at an impasse.

Middlesbrough are refusing to take the easy way out and sell Emerson and Keith Lamb, the chief executive, has visited Barcelona and Parma — both of whom are said to be interested in signing the player — to warn them off any further attempts to offer him a move away from Teesside. On his return, Lamb reiterated Middlesbrough's readiness to leave Emerson kicking his heels on a Brazilian beach for four years rather than let him leave.

"We can afford to write Emerson off," he said, "but I'm not sure whether the player can afford not to play football for four years. There's a hidden agenda, that's what makes us angry, and we won't be blackmailed. His wife's alleged problems are at the root of this, but these clubs have been orchestrating this performance for the past month."

There was one glimmer of hope of a resolution yesterday, Emerson reportedly telling a Portuguese journalist that he would like to continue playing for Middlesbrough, if his wife can be persuaded.

"I like Middlesbrough as a town, and the people are friendly," he said. "I enjoy being in England and think I have adapted to the style of football quite well.

"But I am starting to live a drama. My wife is ill. She has some difficulties to contend with. She doesn't like Middlesbrough as she feels it is too cold. And I find it hard to concentrate on football as my wife is unhappy at the thought of living in Middlesbrough."

Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, suggested yesterday that the club might leave Goodison Park for a new stadium. "We are one pf the best clubs in the Premiership, and we need a more modern stadium," Johnson said.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan
Bridge Correspondent

In the past two refreshers I have been discussing the play of high cards to encourage and low cards to discourage. I mentioned that what is a "high" card sometimes only becomes clear on the next round of the suit. These "attitude" signals are used when your partner leads a suit, or when you are discarding.

Today I am discussing length-showing signals. These most usually occur when the declarer or dummy leads a suit. First, why is a length-showing signal necessary? It is to enable your partner to judge when to take his high cards. This is the classical example:

♠K Q J 10
♠A x x (x) N W E S (i) ♠9 2 (ii) ♠9 8 2 (iii) ♠9 7 5 2
♠x x (x)

This is the spade suit in a No-trump contract and dummy has no side entry. When the declarer leads the suit, West wants to hold up the ace until the declarer is out of the suit, but he does not want to hold up too long. That is, if the declarer has two cards in the suit, West should take the second round, but, if he has three cards, West holds up to the third round. The solution is for East to show his length in the suit. He plays play high-low (called a "peter") with an even number of cards, and low-high with an odd number.

So, from holding (i), you play the nine, and from (ii), the two. In this case, West will be able to tell immediately whether you have an odd or an even number of cards, but, if East had, say, 5 2 (from which he plays the five) West would not be able to distinguish it from say 9 8 5 (from which East also plays the five) until the second round.

When you are petering from four cards, in general you should play the second highest. However, when it is clear that your spot cards have no trick-taking relevance, you should play the highest. So here you play the nine from holding (iii). Notice that will get over the message of an even number more quickly.

In the next example, the length signal does not alter the play in the key suit, but may affect the subsequent play:

♠A Q J 9
(i) ♠8 2 (ii) ♠8 3 2 N W E S ♠K 7 6 5
(i) ♠10 4 3
(ii) ♠10 4

Conditions as before: this is the spade suit in a No-trump contract, and dummy is entryless. When declarer leads the ten of spades, West must show his length, by playing the eight from (i) and the two from (ii). In either case, East should duck smoothly, intending to win next time. If declarer repeats the finesse, in case (i), East can see declarer has three spade tricks, and so may need to find some dramatic defence. In case (ii), East can see dummy is dead and can defend accordingly.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Tactical fiend

It is well known that computer programs exhibit immense tactical rather than strategical strength. It is rare that a program overlooks any tactical solution. In the recent slaughter by Fritz4 against the Slovenia national team, one of the human players took the risk of playing the highly tactical Evans Gambit against the Silicon brain, but White was duly cut down by a perfect response from the imperturbable opponent.

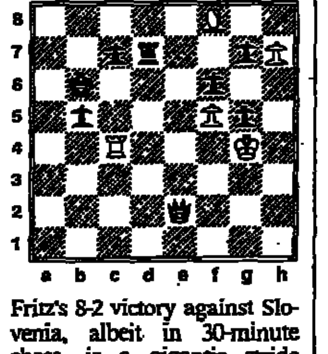
White: Grosar
Black: Fritz4
Bled, November 1996

Evans Gambit

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bc4	Bc5
4	b4	Bxb4
5	c3	Ba5
6	d4	d6
7	Qb3	Qd7
8	dxe5	Bb6
9	Nbd2	Na5
10	Qb4	Nxc4
11	Nxc4	Bc5
12	Qb3	Qc6
13	Ne3	Be6
14	Nd5	0-0-0
15	0-0	Qa6
16	Qc2	dxe5
17	Nxe5	Ne7
18	Be3	Nxd5
19	Bxc5	f6
20	Nf3	Nf4
21	Rfd1	Bc4
22	Ne1	Rxd1
23	Rxd1	Re8
24	Be3	Ne2+
25	Kh1	Qxa2
26	Qxa2	Bxa2
27	Ra1	Nxc3
28	f3	Rd8
29	h4	a6
30	h5	Bb1
31	Kg1	Rd1
32	Kf2	Bxe4
33	Ra3	Nb5
34	Ra4	Bc6
35	Rg4	Rd7
36	Nc2	Bd5
37	Nd4	Nd6
38	Rf4	h6
39	Nf5	Nxf5
40	Rxf5	b5
41	Bc5	a5
42	g4	Kb7
43	Bf8	Kc6
44	f4	Be6
45	Rc5+	Kb6
46	f5	Bc4
47	g5	hxg5
48	Kg3	a4
49	Kf3	a3
50	h6	a2
51	h7	a1Q
52	Rxc4	Qf1+
53	Kg4	Qe2+

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Fritz's 8-2 victory against Slovenia, albeit in 30-minute chess, is a gigantic stride forward for the reputation of machines in their battle against human grandmasters.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276) at £6.99 plus postage and packing.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

MARITODESPOTISM
a. A Roman Catholic sect
b. Drunkenness
c. Bullying one's wife

DIDAPPER
a. A napkin
b. A diving bird
c. Natty and dapper

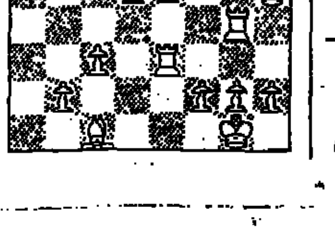
BELOMANCY
a. Living with beasts
b. Prognostication
c. Madness

STUPEFYING
a. Catatonic
b. Stupendous
c. Making stupid

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to play. This position is from the game Alekhine — Borochow, California, 1932. How did White force a quick conclusion, using the open lines on the kingside to maximum effect?

Solution on page 46

SPORTS LETTERS

Retuning of BBC's racing

From the Controller of Television Sport, BBC

Sir, It was ironic that your report (December 2) of alleged concerns in the racing industry that race sponsors suffer unfairly in comparison with other sports shown on BBC Television was printed alongside a photograph of the two leading horses in last Saturday's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup.

Both horses, like all the others in the race, were prominently displaying the sponsor's name on their saddle cloths to a television audience of three million — as well as to your readers.

Further claims that BBC racecourses are losing out compared to Channel 4 and the Racing Channel are not substantiated by viewing figures. Racing coverage on *Grandstand* remains easily the most watched, with audiences usually two or three times higher than on other channels. The peak on Channel 4 last Saturday was 800,000.

You also report an unattributed claim that Julian Wilson uses BBC broadcasts as a platform for personal opposition to Sunday racing. This is untrue. Furthermore, decisions about which meetings are shown on Sundays are taken by programme management, and are largely influenced by the competitive nature of other sporting events. However, top quality meetings like the Ascot Festival, Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp and the Irish Derby will again be on *Grandstand*'s Sunday list in 1997.

Yours faithfully
JONATHAN MARTIN,
Controller,
Television Sport,
BBC,
Room 5106,
Television Centre,
Wood Lane, W12.

From Miss Dorothy Millham

Sir, At last someone apart from me has realised that poor old "Auntie's" racing coverage needs tarting up. The ancient car that follows the races epitomises the image. All those tired reminiscences about "horses I have ridden" are an anachronism. Let's have some new blood and see the horses before the off as well as the presentations.

I hope Sir Paul Fox, chairman of the Racecourse Association, gets his meeting with Jonathan Martin, of the BBC, and tells him how sad the coverage is. Channel 4 has captured Cheltenham and must be in the wings waiting to pounce.

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY MILLHAM,
37 Gloucester Road, SW7.

Peak performance

From Mr George Brink

Sir, Alix Ramsay (November 29) attacked the All England Women's Hockey Association (AEWHA) for its poor organisation of having league games on a Saturday and cup games on the following day.

However, the players involved in these games aspire to play in international tournaments where they will be expected to play every day for seven to ten days at a level that far exceeds AEWHA league competition.

They will also be expected to perform to a peak that will exceed the press's often unrealistic expectations of our top athletes.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE BRINK,
338 Rugby Road,
Burbage, Hinckley,
Leicestershire.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

Rich should pull their weight

From Mr Steve Thoms

Sir, Peter Ball's observations on the Coca-Cola Cup (November 29) made sad reading to me as a supporter of a non-leading (ie, non-rich) club, Wimbledon. Why should the competition lose credibility, as he states, because most of the big clubs are out? The lack of appeal to sponsors is his answer, but is the competition purely for their benefit?

Ipswich are mentioned as possible finalists — and by this kind of argument there was no credibility in their championship year of 1961-62 under Alf Ramsey. It would be more to the point if the big clubs fielded their first teams and gave 100 per cent effort. It would also be fairer to their supporters, who pay serious money for tickets.

Ball looks on a possible Ipswich v. Wimbledon final with some contempt. I say that the rich clubs do not have a divine right any competition.

Yours sincerely,
STEVE THOMS,
16 Chestnut Avenue,
West Wickham, Kent.

Rugby challenge

From Mr Bill Lowes

Sir, I agree with Gerald Davies (November 29) that there is a glut of high-quality rugby at present in the British Isles. Football has this all the time and yet it still manages five-figure crowds. The challenge for rugby union is to make the game a viable alternative to association football for the spectators. For far too long rugby union has been a closed shop to those who have not played the game. We must spread the word, both playing and social, to those who have had little or no contact with the sport.

Davies should stop looking back at those insular days of the 1960s and 1970s, put his thinking cap on and find ways of attracting the outside public into the game without attracting the undesirables.

Yours faithfully,
BILL LOWES,
School House,
Braithwaite, Doncaster.

Outside agency

From Mr R. D. I. Simpson

Sir, With reference to the windblown flagstick moving a ball at rest (Sports Letters, November 22, 29), I agree that neither the Rules of Golf nor the Decisions specifically deal with the matter, but I suggest that the ball should be replaced without penalty.

A flagstick at rest on the green is simply an obstruction (cf. Decision 1-2/3). When moved by the wind it therefore becomes an outside agency, like the tumbling tumbleweed of 18-1/6 and the plastic bag of 18-1/7.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD SIMPSON,
3 Sherwood Avenue,
Ruislip, Middlesex.

Generous Haynes

From Mr Dennie Mancini

Sir, Johnny Haynes was capped 56 times for England, 22 times as captain. He has given all his caps away, bar the first one from the game against Northern Ireland in Belfast when he played alongside Stanley Matthews.

Some of the caps have gone to friends but most of them to charity. Last Friday, at a fundraising evening at Fulham Football Club, a cap was auctioned and sold for £4,100.

The generosity of this very special man deserves to be recorded.

Yours respectfully,
DENNIE MANCINI,
16 Rosedew Road,
Hammersmith, W6.

CRICKET: HOLLIOAKE'S TEAM GIVE THEIR SENIORS YET ANOTHER LESSON IN THE ART OF WINNING

England A continue victorious progress

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN SYDNEY

SYDNEY (England A won the toss): England A beat New South Wales by two wickets

AT LEAST one England cricket team has begun to think itself invincible. Rising obliviously above the travails of their seniors in Zimbabwe, the touring A team yesterday reversed the regular English tendency by winning a match it was far easier to lose. A stirring win it was, too.

Despite declining to 162 for seven in pursuit of 244 to beat New South Wales, Adam Hollioake's irrepressibles rallied to win with three balls to spare.

A resounding cover-driven four from the uncomplicated bat of Ashley Giles kept the A team unbeaten since the opening match of their tour and drew raucous acclaim from the English majority in a meagre crowd.

The facile may say that New South Wales were without five of their Test players. The truth is that they usually are. It might also be said that Greg Matthews was a non-playing captain, as he chose neither to bat nor bowl. This, however, is but more evidence of the man's eccentricity, further ammunition for those already agitating to remove him from the captaincy. It does not detract from the character of England's win.

If the result surprised many, the fixture itself seemed to surprise the Sydney Cricket Ground, where stewards were hurrying around unlocking gates and doors 20 minutes before the start. The Test pitch was re-used and, watered and rolled, played better than on any of its previous five days, though the early start and the obvious moisture persuaded Hollioake to give the state side first innings.

Michael Slater had made only a single when he played precisely the type of cavalier carve against a widish outswinger that cost him his Test place. Glen Chapple profited and, with Dean Headley bowling an impressive ten overs straight through, England took an early foothold.

Corey Richards's half-century stabilised the innings but when he was third out at 99, only 20 overs remained and England would have fondly envisaged a target of no more than 170 but for being well aware of the powers of Shane Lee.

The young Yorkshiremen in this squad believe Lee's century for Somerset at Scarborough last summer to be one of the finest they have seen and he made another now, utterly without fuss.

The long boundaries meant there was a lot of running to be done and Kevin Roberts, Lee's partner in a stand of 117 in 17 overs, made 41 without a single four. Lee required only 97 balls for his century and marked it with an enormous six to mid-wicket before falling to Hollioake in the last over.

The England reply was always up with the required run-rate but wickets were lost too regularly. Michael Vaughan was spectacularly caught down the legside off a pull he was regarding as a certain four, the gifted but fidgety Owais Shah fell to an extravagantly misguided sweep and Anthony McGrath, looking in imperious form, wastefully mis-hit to long-on.

Gavin Robertson, the international off spinner, took a second wicket by slipping a quicker ball through Craig White and there now began a sequence of silly dismissals that all but sacrificed the match.

Mark Ealham, turning blind for a second, was run out and Warren Hegg, having missed with two frenetic reverse-sweeps against Robertson, tried to cut him instead and was caught behind. Worst of all, Hollioake, who was batting so majestically he seemed to have the target personally in hand, was sent back too late by Giles and run out for 51.

Hollioake stomped off in high dudgeon but his team did not fail him, surfing home on their own banana-skins. Giles, who cuts a sturdy figure and gives the ball a proportionate caning, added 40 in eight overs with Chapple and an unbroken 42 in seven with Headley. It was cricket brimming with self-belief. Those in Zimbabwe must be tempted to send for some.

SHAUN BOTTERILL / ALLSPORT

Giles clips the ball through the offside in the course of his unbeaten 39, which included the winning boundary

SCOREBOARD

NEW SOUTH WALES

M J Slater c Hegg b Chapple	1
C J Richards c Such b Ealham	55
T H Bayliss c Such b Ealham	12
S Lee c White b Hollioake	113
K J Roberts c Chapple b Ealham	41
B E McNamara c and b Ealham	1
S M Thompson not out	10
†P A Emery not out	0
Extras (lb 7, w 1, nb 2)	10
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs)	243

*G R J Matthews, G R Robertson and S Nikitaras did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-56, 3-99, 4-216, 5-219, 6-236.

BOWLING: Headley 10-3-26-0; Chapple 7-1-40-1; Ealham 10-0-50-2; Such 9-0-38-1; Giles 10-0-48-1; Hollioake 4-0-34-1.

ENGLAND A

A McGrath c Lee b Robertson	43
M P Vaughan c Emery b Thompson	19
O A Shah c Emery b Robertson	19
*A J Hollioake run out	51
C White b Robertson	3
M A Ealham run out	7
†W K Hegg c Emery b Robertson	2
A F Giles not out	39
G Chapple run out	22
D W Headley not out	20
Extras (lb 10, w 3, nb 6)	19
Total (8 wkts, 49.3 overs)	244

P M Such did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-32, 2-74, 3-103, 4-121, 5-143, 6-155, 7-162, 8-244.

BOWLING: Nikitaras 8-0-41-0; Thompson 10-0-41-1; Lee 10-0-47-0; Robertson 10-0-46-4; McNamara 5.3-1-25-0; Bayliss 6-2-29-0.

Umpires: I Thomas and A Morgan.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

MARITODESPOTISM

(c) Ruthless domination of his wife by a husband. Can such things be? From the Latin *maritus* a husband + *despotism*. As *uxorious* describes a husband who dotes embarrassingly on his wife, *maritorious* is a rare word to describe the rarer condition of a wife who dotes excessively on her husband. Chapman: "Dames maritorious ne'er were meritorious."

DIDAPPER

(b) Somebody or something who disappears and then bobs up again. From *dive* and *dapper* (a variant of *dipper*). Specifically applied to the dabchick, a small freshwater diving bird. Or, by extension, a teenager between mealtimes, and when you need her/him to do something.

BELOMANCY

(b) Predicting the future by the use of arrows. From the Latin. The future of the then reigning British royal family was accurately predicted by this system at the Battle of Hastings.

STUPEFYING

(a) Inducing stupor. Boring your audience out of its tiny mind. The quality of too many journalists and after-dinner speakers. As, for example, the music of the Beatles or televised racing. If used in a sufficiently favourable tone of voice ("How positively *stupefying*"), it can be successfully confused in the listener's mind with *stupendous*.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Ne6! Bxe6; 2. Qxh7+! Kxh7; 3. Rh3+ and mates.

Symonds forced to decide where his loyalties lie

BY PAT GIBSON

ANDREW SYMONDS has a week to make up his mind once and for all. Is he an Englishman who is ready and willing to play cricket for the country of his birth? Or is he an Australian whose only ambition is to wear the baggy green cap?

Symonds, who last year declined an invitation to tour Pakistan with the England A team, has now been selected to play for Australia A in a day-night match against West Indies at Melbourne next Friday.

It should be a straightforward decision for a cricketer who once described himself as "a fair dinkum Aussie" but there is one major complication. Once he plays for Australia, he will no longer be allowed to play county cricket for Gloucestershire, with whom he signed a three-year contract only last summer.

Tony Brown, administrative secretary of the Test and County Cricket Board, confirmed yesterday that a player who has appeared for one country at any level above under-17 cannot play for another for four years. And Symonds's county contract is conditional on his being available for England. "Gloucestershire have always known that this could happen," he said. "The ball is in their court."

"The ball is in Andrew's court, actually." Philip August, the Gloucestershire chief executive, said. "He assured us on a number of occasions that he was English and that he was going to play for England if selected, but I think most people realised that it was going to come down to the first country that picked him.

"I think he wanted to get a couple of years experience in England under his belt and then he was going to take the first option. If he had been selected for England this winter it might have been a different kettle of fish."

Symonds: time to choose

Not that Gloucestershire have given up hope of persuading Symonds that he is still an Englishman. By a strange twist of fate, their captain, Courtney Walsh, will be leading West Indies against Australia A and August will be speaking to him as well as Symonds and the player's father, Ken, in the next few days. The county will not be held to ransom, however. There is no question of Symonds replacing Walsh as the one overseas player they are allowed.

"Andrew has got a very good deal and if he is going to turn his back on that to play for Australia A it is a brave and bold decision," August said. "It would be a shame from Gloucestershire's point of view and it would probably be a shame from Andrew's because with the depth of talent Australia have got one finds it difficult to see him going further. But I suppose in our heart of hearts we always knew that it was a possibility in spite of the assurances we had been given."

Symonds, 21, was born in Birmingham but taken to Australia by his adoptive parents when he was 18 months old. He was named Young Cricketer of the Year at the end of his first season with Gloucestershire in 1995.

Sri Lanka attempt to lure Lamb

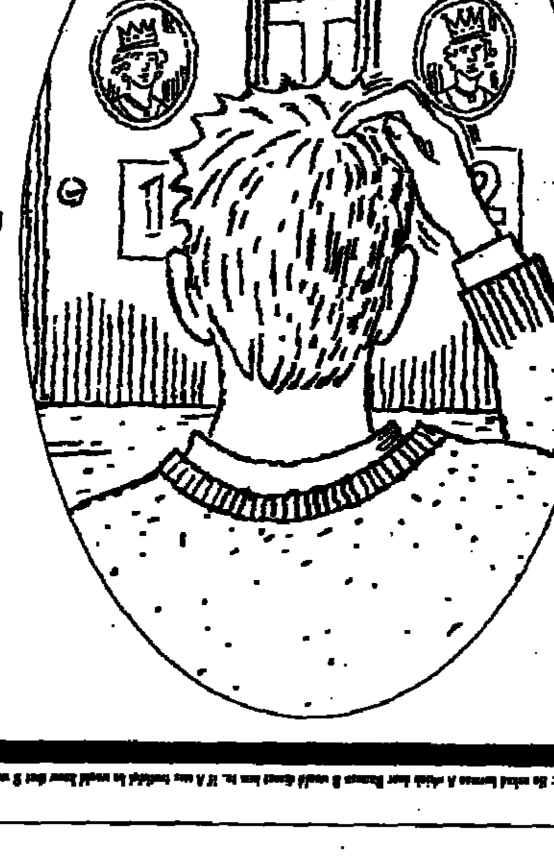
ALLAN LAMB, the former England batsman, is on the brink of a return to international cricket as coach to Sri Lanka.

The 42-year-old former Northamptonshire captain, who retired from first-class cricket before the start of last season after a dispute over the publication of his autobiography, confirmed yesterday that he had been approached by the World Cup winners to take over from Dav Whatmore, who has joined Lancashire.

"It's very flattering and we are now in the process of negotiating," Lamb said.

Brian Lara will be reprimanded by the West Indies team management over an outburst in the Australia dressing-room after he was controversially dismissed in the second Test.

Lara, angry that Ian Healy, the Australia wicketkeeper, claimed a catch when the ball appeared to hit the ground, confronted Geoff Marsh, the Australia coach, and said Healy would never again be welcome in a West Indies dressing-room. Clive Lloyd, the West Indies manager, formally apologised for Lara's remarks and said the batsman would be disciplined "in-house". Lara, himself, has expressed no remorse.



Ruddles County Riddles.

No. 13. Pub Challenge.

For Peter Barnsworthy it was a dream come true. He had won the 1996 Hertfordshire Pub Quiz Championship after six gruelling rounds.

But his victory was by no means final. He had yet to claim the prize.

He was placed in the bar of the Queen's Head Pub in Westcott. There were two doors, each leading to different rooms. Behind one of the doors, lay the prize, a voucher for unlimited access to the love of his life - Ruddles County.

The challenge was set. He did not know behind which door (they were marked 1 and 2) lay which prize. Beside each door stood a barman to help him decide which door to choose.

However, the catch was that one of the barmen had been instructed to lie, but Peter did not know which.

Peter stepped forward, asked one of the men a question, and upon hearing his answer confidently strode through door 1 to claim his voucher.

Peter is of course too busy to tell us how he worked it out. Do you know how he worked it out?

Solution: He asked barman A which door Barman B would direct him to. If A was truthful he would know that B would lie and would therefore answer Door 2. If A was the liar he would lie about B's answer and say that B would send him to Door 2. Hence Peter chose Door 1.

Looking back in anger

United States of Anger. *Radio 4, 9.45am.*

Gavin Esler, the BBC's chief North American correspondent, employs an attention-grabbing device to launch his series about the crumbling of the American Dream. In a country doctor's home, he finds himself looking down the barrel of a 9mm semi-automatic pistol. Dr Jim is not, however, about to bump him off. "I have it for protection," he explains. It is his form of life insurance in the state of Arkansas, where gang violence is so bad that hospital casualty units are rated high-risk zones. Despite this, Dr Jim has decided to give up private practice to work in that self-same hospital. He says he can no longer carry the crippling load of bureaucracy or cope with the complexities of the American health insurance system.

Wowfabgroovy. *Radio 2, 7.00pm.*

Only if someone twisted my arm or bribed me with a first edition of *A Christmas Carol* would I call this new panel game ground-breaking; but the festive season is fast appoaching, and it would be churlish to deny that the first edition of *Wowfabgroovy* is a cheerful, noisy and disputatious affair that makes few demands on players or listeners. The questions are all keyed to the popular music, entertainers and personalities in the news during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. The panellists are Wendy Richard, Bernard Cribbins, Toyah Willcox and Jeffrey Holland. Johnnie Walker is the besieged master of ceremonies.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo, includes Golden Hour **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, includes at **12.30pm-12.45** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, includes at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat and at **6.30** The Continuous Dance Mix **7.00** Essential Selection, with Pete Tong **10.00** One in the Jungle **12.00** Radio 1 Rap Show Live to the UK Jam **3.00am** Annie Nightingale **5.00** Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Wowfabgroovy. See Choice **7.30** Friday Night Is Music Night. From the Hippodrome in Golders Green. Robin Boyle introduces the BBC Concert Orchestra, under Bramwell Tovey **8.45** Jamaica Inn, (6/10) **9.00** Listen to the Band **10.00** Sheridan Morley **12.05am** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl at **5.45** Wake Up to Money **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.05pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide, incl at **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra, with David McNeil, incl Sports Bulletin **7.35** Parkinson on Sport **8.30** Friday Sport, with Robin Bailey. Featuring FA Cup second round action **10.05** Paper Talk, with Jay Rayner and Brian Alexander **11.00** Night Extra, with David McNeil **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Early Breakfast **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Anna Raeburn **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Drivetime, with Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour. **5.30am** Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** Green History of the Planet **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Music Review **8.55** Global Gardening **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Focus on Faith **9.45** Sport **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.30** Meridian Books **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Science in Action **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.05** Sport **3.15** Global Gardening **3.30** Music Review **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sport **6.30** Focus on Faith **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** People and Politics **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sport **11.10** Spotlight **11.15** Insider's Guide **11.25** Book Choice **11.30** Multitrack **12.30am** Seven Days **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Science in Action **3.15** Sport **3.30** Meridian Live **4.30** Jazz Now and Then **4.45** Seven Days

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto. Lalo (Cello Concerto in D minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata. Hummel (Piano Sonata No 1) **7.00** Showcase **8.00** Concert. Mozart (Symphony No 35 in D minor, K385); Tchaikovsky (Variations on a Rococo Theme, Op 33); Barber (Adagio for Strings); Saint-Saëns (Cello Concerto No 1 in A minor, Op 33) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Alan Freeman **12.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Includes Rimsky-Korsakov (Trombone Concerto in B flat); Schmelzer (Sonata VI)

8.30 Building a Library. Graham Sadler chooses a recording of Bach's French Suites

8.50 An Advent Calendar. Carols performed by Huntingdon Male Voice Choir, conductor Peter Davies. English trad (Wassail, Wassail); German trad (O, Christmas Tree)

9.00 Morning Collection. Includes Schumann (Piano Sonata No 3 in F minor, Op 14); Britten (Symphonic Suite Gloriana)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Includes Telemann (Cantata Unverzagt in Allen Leide); Stenhammar (Violin Sonata in A minor, Op 19)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Lully. Roger Savage presents adaptations, reflections and homages, including from Marais's Tombeau pour M de Lully and Purcell's King Arthur

1.00pm News; Bristol Lunchtime Concerts. Music by Joseph Haydn and others performed by London Winds. Haydn (Octet in F); Jonathan Dove (Figures in the Garden); Mozart (Serenade in C minor, K388)

2.15 Music Restored (r)

3.00 Mining the Archive. The last of three programmes exploring the legacy of recordings of Benjamin Britten. Includes his work as a pianist, as both a chamber musician and a song accompanist

5.00 The Music Machine. Tommy Pearson ends his week exploring the work of composer Tod Machover by taking part in performances of *The Brain Opera* in Copenhagen and, via the Internet, New York

5.15 In Tune. Includes Scarlatti (Sonatas in E minor); York Bowen (Toccata, Op 155)

7.30 Philharmonia Ligeti Series. The first in a season of concerts featuring the works of Gyogy Ligeti. Given last night at the Festival Hall, London; conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen, David Geringas, cello, Joan Rodgers, soprano. Ligeti (San Francisco Polyphony and Cello Concerto); Mahler (Symphony No 4)

9.15 The Jesus Diary. Angela Tilby presents items from the cutting room floor from her life of Jesus series

9.35 Handel after Elgar after Handel. Christopher Kite, harpsichord, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, conductor Andrew Davis perform Elgar (Overture in D minor after Handel); Handel (Suite in G minor for keyboard)

10.00 Hear and Now. From the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, Stockhausen's Mantra from 1971 and a retrospective of the work of Morton Feldman. Omar Ibrahim, bass and Ensemble Recherche perform items from his early and middle years, including the British premiere of The O'Hara Songs and Why Patterns? a work inspired by Feldman's interest in Asian rugs

12.00 Composers of the Week: American Symphonists (r)

1.00am Through the Night

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs: Bruce Forsyth (r)

9.45 United States of Anger. See Choice

10.00 News; In the Grip of the Glossies (FM). Liz Lochhead recalls how, over the years, women's magazines have offered her advice on men (3/4)

10.00 An Act of Worship (LW)

10.15 On This Day (LW)

10.30 Woman's Hour, with Ruth Wishart

11.30 The Natural History Programme. Presented by Joanna Pinnock

12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker

12.25pm The Food Programme. Derek Cooper and Natalie Wheen choose the food they would like delivered to their doors for Christmas **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping

2.00 News; Classic Serial: My Brilliant Career, by Miles Franklin, (2/2) (r)

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow interviews Howard Hodgkin as he opens a major new retrospective on the South Bank in London

4.45 Short Story: Call Me Amelia, by Glen Jayson. Read by Sunny Ormonde

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Going Places, with David Stafford

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Pick of the Week. Chris Serle presents his selection of extracts from BBC radio and television over the past seven days

8.05 Any Questions? From York. With Dr Germaine Greer; Frank Dobson, MP, Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment and London; Ann Widdecombe, MP, Minister of State at the Home Office; and Sir John Banham, chairman of Kingfisher. With Jonathan Dimbleby

8.50 Law in Action, with Marcel Berlins. Lucy Ash reports from Russia on reactions to the tentative experiment there in trial by jury

9.15 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke

9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: Our Father. From *The Ten Commandments* to *The Life of Brian* from the Mystery Plays to *Jesus Christ Superstar* there has never been a shortage of theatrical roles representing the Deity (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Scary Movies. Written and read by Stephen Amidon (r)

11.00 Week Ending. The topical comedy sketch show. With Sally Grace, Sally Phillips, Jeffrey Holland and Dave Lamb

11.25 Fourth Column. A quizzical look at life

11.45 Today in Parliament

12.00 News incl 12.27am weather

12.30 The Late Book: Carol (10/10) (r)

1.00 As World service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

هكذا من الاصل

Hillsborough: look back in anger and sorrow

REVIEW

Peter Barnard

Very occasionally there occurs on television an event which defies the cold judgment of the head, bypasses the intellectual analysis of the mind and goes straight for the heart. Such an event came along last night in the *form of* **Hillsborough** (ITV), a drama-documentary about the events of April 15, 1989, when 95 people died at the Sheffield Wednesday football ground.

Hillsborough is the work of Jimmy McGovern, author of *Cracker*. McGovern is a Liverpudlian and he has made a crusade of finding the truth of that awful day and getting it on to the screen. The result is biased in the best sense, in that it takes the side of the fans, who have been too long ignored.

It is also selective. Even in two hours, no one could possibly tell the whole story. But above all *Hillsborough* is a magnificent drama, acutely written, well-researched and directed with taut panache by Charles McDougall. As if that is not enough, there is a further reason for welcoming *Hillsborough*: it is the nearest the victims and their families are likely to get to true justice.

McGovern's script is based on coroner's court transcripts and the testimony of people who were involved. It is harrowing (and it is clearly meant to be) but McGovern consistently avoids shock tactics: there are few scenes of mayhem, no scenes of bloody carnage. But there is anger and sorrow in vast quantities. There is a spartan quality to the piece which only adds to its effectiveness.

Actors play all the parts, except where news footage is used of the actual incident. The facts are that Liverpool had begun an FA Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest but the game was soon abandoned. A far greater drama was being played out at the Leppings Lane end of the ground, where too many Liverpool supporters had been packed into too little space.

It may be that *Hillsborough* is biased, but that does not make it inaccurate. The untruths told by the police have been well documented. The outrageous stories planted in certain newspapers by police officers have long since been exposed. The police said that Liverpool fans had "smashed down a gate" when in fact the police themselves had ordered the opening of the gate. The police said the Liverpool supporters were drunk. Lord Justice Taylor found that "drunkenness was not a major factor" and that there had been "a failure of police control".

There was also, as McGovern demonstrates, a failure of cultural comprehension. When fans began to climb the fences behind the pitch to get out of the crush, this was assumed to be a pitch invasion. Long after it was apparent that this was a disaster, ambulances were still being kept outside the ground. When one paramedic asked to be let in, a police officer told him: No, they're still fighting in there." Nobody had been fighting.

McGovern graphically demonstrates that the police on duty were obsessed with the image of certain football fans, somewhat understandable given the hooligan excesses of the 1980s, rather than the reality on the day. Trevor Hicks, one of the central characters, who is played by Christopher Eccleston, was at the game with his two teenage daughters, Sarah and Vicki. Both the girls died. Within minutes, a police officer asked Hicks: "How much did you have to drink?"

The man in charge of the police operation at Hillsborough was Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield. Lord Justice Taylor said of him that he "failed to take effective control" and caused "grave offence" by spreading an untruthful allegation that fans had smashed down a gate.

I am not normally enamoured of drama-documentary, but with assiduous research wedded to a tremendous passion, McGovern has produced a piece of work which will serve as a testament for the Hillsborough families. It is the least compensation they deserve and, likely, the most they will get.

By comparison with *Hillsborough*, last night's **Dispatches** (Channel 4) almost qualified as light relief. But here was a scandal of a different order, concerning the vexed question of how much taxpayers' money is being spent on slaughtering cows, mad and potentially so. Too much, according to the programme, a view which even people in the slaughtering business seemed to confirm.

When the scheme started, slaughterhouses were paid £87.50 per head of cattle. Quite how the figure was arrived at is not clear. But abattoirs all over the country were willing to do the job for as little as £30 a head, indeed some offered to do it for nothing and make their money out of selling the hides at £25 each.

The Ministry of Agriculture seems to have been so anxious to get on with the job that it agreed to pay a premium rate. Only one organisation representing slaughterhouses, the Federation of Fresh Meat Wholesalers, was on the ad hoc committee put in charge of the cull and federation members were given 80 per cent of the work.

Paul Tyler, the Liberal Democrat agriculture spokesman, told the programme: "I cannot think of any sectional interest, particularly one that is going to benefit so directly from taxpayers' money, that was in such a powerful position to take control of public policy."

And Dr Richard North, a food safety adviser, said: "The ultimate irony is that a scheme which was not recommended by the Government's own scientists, was not wanted by Europe, is not understood by consumers, is not wanted by farmers, is going to do irreparable damage to the meat industry and farming, and will cost the taxpayers a fortune."

BBC1

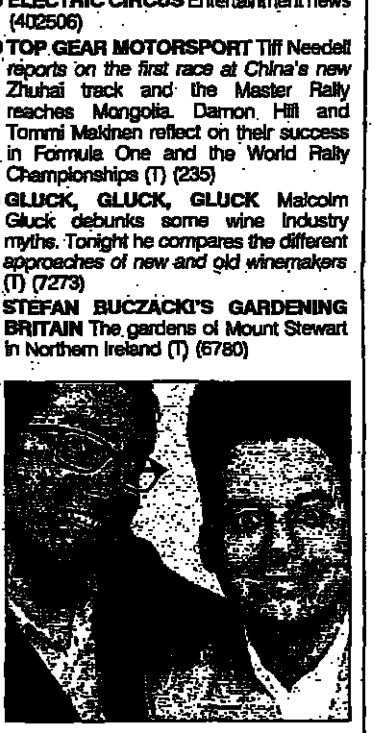
6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (25506)
7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (T) (56877)
9.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (T) (1122254)
9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (4005273)
9.45 KILROY (6831322)
10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (25322)
11.00 NEWS (T) **REGIONAL NEWS** and weather (3531506)
11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (5532419)
11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (9731970)
12.00 NEWS (T) **REGIONAL NEWS** and weather (8274803)
12.05pm ALIAS SMITH AND JONES (r) (8425070)
12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW (35089341)
1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (59964)
1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (90274790)
1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) (29982506)
2.00 CALL MY BLUFF (6167)
2.30 PETER SEABROOK'S GARDENING WEEK (728)
3.00 INCOGNITO (8902)
3.30 ANTS IN YOUR PANTS (5146254) **3.50** Dear Mr Barker (4063047) **4.05** The Family Ness (2262490) **4.10** The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest (1070728) **4.35** Grange Hill (7859341) **5.00** Newsround (T) (5417902) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (8726709)
5.35 NEIGHBOURS (r) (T) (865070)
6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (457)
6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (709)
7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE Presented by Michael Aspel (4493)
7.30 TOP OF THE POPS (T) (693)
8.00 ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES: The Class of 62 Del is invited to a reunion at his old school. With David Jason and Nicholas Lyndhurst (r) (T) (182877)
8.50 MORE ANTIQUES ROADSHOW GEMS: Automata Hugh Scully presents a selection of *Roadshow* finds from the archives, including the popular rabbit-in-a-cabbage (T) (239167)
9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS (T) **REGIONAL NEWS** and weather (6148)
9.30 CHOICE **HETTY WAINTHROPP INVESTIGATES: Lost Chords** When finalists for the Golden Voice start croaking, Hetty investigates. With Patricia Routledge (368877)
10.20 FILM: Mother's Boys (1993) with Jamie Lee Curtis, Peter Gallagher and Joanne Whalley-Kilmer. A mother who deserted her husband and three children three years before decides she wants them all back. *Directed by Yves Simoneau* (5994490) **WALES: 10.20** Iris Williams — Song Book **10.50** FILM: Mother's Boys **12.20am** FILM: Deceptions **2.20** News head lines; weather
11.55 FILM: Deceptions (1990) with Harry Hamlin and Nicollette Sheridan. Beautiful Adrienne Erickson shoots dead a burglar, only to find it is her wealthy husband. *Surly homicide detective Nick Gentry and* his cynical partner investigate. Directed by Ruben Preuss (169419)
1.35am WEATHER (8565858)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which *allow you to programme your video recorder* instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: Humanity and the Scaffold (7904438) **6.25** Classical Sculpture and the Enlightenment (7916273) **6.50** Citizens of the World (8220235) **7.15** See Hear Breakfast News (2249322) **7.30** Yakky Duck (5177506) **7.50** Smart (5171322) **8.15** Charlie Chalk (7291815) **8.35** The Record (6214728) **9.00** The Worried Well (1139544)
9.15 ASSIGNMENT EARTH (5623341)
10.00 PLAYDAYS (2675273)
10.25 THE CHAMPIONS (8419148) **11.15** The Phil Silvers Show (1171916) **11.40** Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars (6486803) **12.00** Ken Hom's Hot Wok (47544)
12.30pm WORKING LUNCH (75815) **1.00** Charlie Chalk (99998070) **1.15** The Hollywood Collection (9954877) **2.05** *Pride of Dress* (76570780)
2.15 SPORT ON FRIDAY Helen Rollason introduces highlights of the final round from the LPGA golf tour championships from Las Vegas (564167)
3.55 NEWS (T) regional news and weather (6171612) **4.00** Today's the Day (322) **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (506) **5.00** Esther (8761) **5.30** Going, Going, Gone (186) **6.00** The Munsters (b/w) (r) (834761)
6.25 UFO: The Square Triangle A woman discovers she has murdered an alien (T) (217896)
7.15 ELECTRIC CIRCUS Entertainment news (402506)
7.30 TOP GEAR MOTORSPORT Tiff Needell *reports on the first race at China's new* Zhuhai track and the Master Rally reaches Mongolia. Damon Hill and Tommi Makinen reflect on their success in Formula One and the World Rally Championships (T) (235)
8.00 GLUCK, GLUCK, GLUCK Malcolm Gluck debunks some wine industry myths. Tonight *he compares the different approaches of new and old winemakers* (T) (7273)
8.30 STEFAN BUCZACKI'S GARDENING BRITAIN The gardens of Mount Stewart in Northern Ireland (T) (6780)



Vic Reeves, Bob Mortimer (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE **SHOOTING STARS** Comedy quiz. Tonight's guests include *singer Donna Air, comedians Morwenna* Banks and Griff Rhys Jones and actor Stephen Tompkinson (7490)
9.30 RED DWARF VI The Dwarfers need replacement engine parts (r) (T) (55051)
10.00 HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU The guests are Neil Morrissey, Martin Clunes and Claire Rayner (48273)
10.30 NEWSNIGHT (T) (946099)
11.15 THE A FORCE Black entertainment hosted by Felix Dexter (428167)
1.15 FILM: Walpurgis Night (b/w, 1935) with Lars Hanson and Ingrid Bergman. Directed by Gustaf Edgren (8727674)

CHOICE

Shooting Stars
BBC2, 9.00pm

The spoof game show takes a sensational new turn as Mark Lamarr, resident team captain and keeper of the straightest of straight faces, laughs. Not once but several times. *Shooting Stars* has lost one of its most durable running gags. But addicts should not despair. Ulrika Jonsson still giggles at the merest provocation, the guests (tonight they are Stephen Tompkinson, Donna Air, Morwenna Banks and Griff Rhys Jones) continue to be gently humiliated and Matt Lucas's bizarre baby-adult keeps the scores. And Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer remain gloriously anarchic, or shrill and unfunny, depending on whether you subscribe to the cult. For cult it is, which means a committed following but a minority one. Reeves, who models himself on Eric Morecambe, must pine for his idol's viewing figures.

Staying Alive
ITV, 9.00pm

There are so many loose ends at the finish of this final episode that a second series may be on the stocks. Whether it is deserved is another matter, and if there has been much to enjoy in this sexual merry-go-round among student nurses, this may not have been in the way the makers of the series intended. The big moment tonight is at the nurses' barbecue party when Sister Felicity (Lynne Verrall) announces to Dr Sunil (Ayub Khan Dan) that she is not wearing any knickers. Sadly for her the intended seduction misfires, for in keeping with the general drift of the show his eyes are already wandering elsewhere. Meanwhile, mad Michaela (Susannah Wise) is threatening more dark deeds in the intensive care unit, which at least drums up a bit of suspense and makes a change from trying to remember who was last having an affair with whom.

Hetty Wainthropp Investigates: Lost Chords
BBC1, 9.30pm

The Blainthorp Musical Festival has been running for half a century but this year somebody is trying to ruin it. One by one the contestants for the Golden Voice competition, which carries a £500 prize and the chance of a career in television commercials, are pulling out because they have mysteriously lost their voices. It could be a virus but this is a detective series and Patricia Routledge's Hetty has a villain to unmask. Those who see a touch of Agatha Christie in the Wainthropp stories will relish the generous array of suspects, each with a convincing motive, and the Poirot-like method by which the puzzle is solved. The difference is that in Agatha Christie people get murdered, sometimes several in the same story. The cases of the Lancashire OAP are a gentler type of entertainment.

The Adam and Joe Show
Channel 4, 12.10am

Anybody still watching television at such an unsocial hour will be rewarded with this oddball comedy show in which Joe Cornish and Adam Buxton sound off from a bedsit in Brixton. Their targets are drawn from popular culture, with regular swipes at films, records, magazines and food. A soft toy version of *Trainspotting*, complete with the foul language, is a good indication of what to expect, and there is more bad taste in a look at great moments from air crash movies. Further justification for hiding the show away in the small hours comes in a sketch about visiting a urinal. But Cornish and Buxton do have a gentler, wittier streak, and are capable of being funny as well as provocative.

Peter Waymark

6.00am GMTV (7154341)
9.25 SUPERMARKET SWEEP (4080964)
9.55 REGIONAL NEWS (2652322)
10.00 THE TIME . . . THE PLACE (37254)
10.30 THIS MORNING (60991761)
12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (2874867)
12.30 NEWS (T) and weather (9987186)
12.55 MURDER, SHE WROTE (T) (9726235) **2.00** Home and Away (T) (24917380) **2.25** Crosswits (T) (17262457) **2.55** Yan Can Cook — The Best of China (7485506)
3.20 NEWS (7385896)
3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (7384167)
3.30 JAYS WORLD (6602849) **3.40** Zzzap! Christmas Annuals (6707493) **3.55** Oscar and Friends (6175438) **4.00** Snug and Cozi (8584631) **4.15** Hurricanes (1064167) **4.40** Fun House (1030341)
5.10 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (7541709)
5.40 NEWS and weather (T) (381693)
6.00 HOME AND AWAY (r) (T) (861815)
6.25 HTV NEWS (T) (741790)
7.00 CATCHPHRASE presented by Roy Walker (5051)
7.30 CORONATION STREET Will Mike Baldwin's discovery place Tricia's job in jeopardy? (T) (761)

Simon Rouse as Meadows (8.00pm)

8.00 THE BILL When Sun Hill teams up with Customs and Excise to crack a fencing operation, Meadows is concerned that they will end up paying the bill but not catching the villains (T) (1099)
8.30 FAITH IN THE FUTURE: Young and Foolish Faith discovers she has a young admirer at college, which becomes the source of amusement (T) (9326)
9.00 CHOICE **STAYING ALIVE** Kelly is making decisions about life while Mick is thinking about death. Last in the series (T) (2815)
10.00 NEWS (T) and weather (42099)
10.30 REGIONAL NEWS (154631)
10.40 FILM: With Hostile Intent (1993) Drama based on the true case of two Californian policewomen who fought against the injustice and corruption of their male-dominated profession. Starring Melissa Gilbert, Mel Harris and Peter Onorati. *Directed by Paul Schneider* (T) (51903457)
12.35am ED'S NIGHT PARTY (8441674)
1.00 FUNNY BUSINESS (83026)
1.30 THE GOOD SEX GUIDE . . . LATE (6534533)
2.35 BUSHELL ON THE BOX (r) (2799277)
3.05 WAR AND REMEMBRANCE (r) (887484)
4.50 RECOLLECTIONS (56446484)
5.00 INTERNATIONAL TOURING CARS: Italy — Mugello (r) (49194)
5.30 NEWS (30303)

As HTV West except:
12.55pm HOME AND AWAY (9962877)
1.25 CROSS WITS (30513438)
1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (29996709)
5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7541709)
6.25-7.00 CENTRAL NEWS (741790)
10.40 CENTRAL WEEKEND (2641506)
12.10am SLEDGE HAMMER (2592378)
12.40 ***COMEDY CENTRAL*** *(4760378)*
1.40 THE GOOD SEX GUIDE . . . LATE (6558113)
2.45 CYBER.CAFE (4150216)
3.10 HELTER SKELTER (5220262)
4.00 JOBFINDER (5610620)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55 CORONATION STREET (9962877)
1.25-1.55 CROSSWITS (30513438)
1.55 HOME AND AWAY (21512490)
2.25 HIGH ROAD (17262457)
2.55-3.20 GARDENERS' DIARY (7485506)
5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (7541709)
6.00-7.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (47032)
10.30 WESTCOUNTRY NEWS (145983)
10.45 Film: WITH HOSTILE INTENT (51988148)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 CROSS WITS (9962877)
1.25 HOME AND AWAY (30513438)
1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (29996709)
5.10 HOME AND AWAY (7541709)
6.00-7.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT (47032)
10.45 COASTGUARD RESCUE (336542)
11.15 ALFRED HITCHCOCK PRESENTS (586065)
11.45 SHORT STORY CINEMA (587780)
5.00 FREESCREEN (49194)

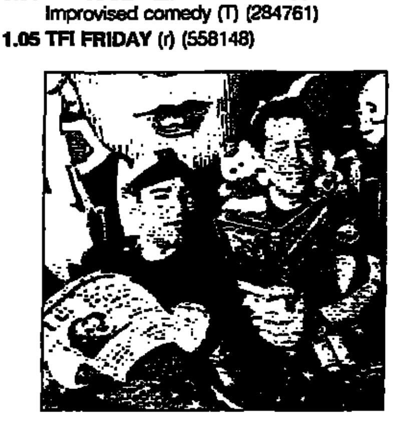
ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 CROSS WITS (9962877)
1.25 HOME AND AWAY (30513438)
1.55 JUSTICE OF THE LAND (21512490)
2.25-3.20 MURDER, SHE WROTE (9616235)
5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7541709)
6.30-7.00 ANGLIA NEWS (877)
10.40 SHORT SHARP SHOCKS (418341)
10.50 Film: ERIK THE VIKING (45572815)

S4C

Starts: 6.30am THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ (44544) **7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST** (72815) **9.00 HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER** (29148) **9.30 Film: BYE BYE BIRDIE** (74099) **11.30 THE LIVING SEA** (3051) **12.00 SESAME STREET** (49490) **1.00pm SLOT MEITHRIN** (75902) **1.30 LITTLE JACK LITTLE** (29984964) **1.50 Film: CONFIDENTIAL AGENT** (84855728) **4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE** (490) **4.30 ANTON MOSIMANN: NATURALLY** (902) **5.00 5 PUMP** (3457) **5.30 COUNTDOWN** (254) **6.00 NEWYDDION** (737419) **6.05 HENO** (849693) **6.35 SION A SIAN** (725772) **7.00 POBOL Y CWM** (149525) **7.25 OPERAVOX: CARMEN** (314728) **8.00 CEFN GWLAD** (2341) **8.30 NEWYDDION** (8148) **9.00 TU FEWN — TU FAS** (6047) **10.00 BROOKSIDE** (33341) **10.30 WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY?** (940815) **11.10 TFI FRIDAY** (739896) **12.10am THE ADAM AND JOE SHOW** (9911674) **12.35 Film: THEATRE OF DEATH** (732668) **2.20 Film: THE VENGEANCE OF FU MANCHU** (540281) **4.00 Film: BABY FACE** (3538842)

6.30am THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ (44544)
7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (72815)
9.00 HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER (29148)
9.30 FILM: Bye Bye Birdie (1963). Musical comedy starring Dick Van Dyke, directed by George Sidney (T) (74099)
11.30 LAWN AND ORDER *Encounters* report on gardens of America (r) (T) (83964) **12.30pm** Lift Off (r) (60983) **1.00** Sesame Street (65438) **2.00** The Balloonatic (b/w) A Buster Keaton short (26717362)
2.25 FILM: Five Against the House (1955, b/w). Heist drama starring Guy Madison and Brian Keith. Directed by Phil Karlson (T) (713506)
4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (T) (490)
4.30 COUNTDOWN: The Search for the **Supreme Champion** (T) (902)
5.00 TV DINNERS (r) (3457)
5.30 OVER THE GARDEN WALL Gardens in the Lake District (r) (T) (254)
6.00 TFI FRIDAY With music from Texas, East 17 and the Long Pigs (78902)
7.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS (T) (154273)
7.55 THE SLOT (464506)
8.00 LONELY PLANET Ian Wright journeys to Jordan, Lebanon and Syria (T) (2341)
8.30 BROOKSIDE The Close is rocked by a revelation. Jackie feels torn between husband Jimmy and Ron. Jack finally reveals his terrible secret (T) (8148)
9.00 CAROLINE IN THE CITY: Caroline and the Gift *Caroline worries about the cost* and the implications of the Christmas present she is about to receive from Del. Richard receives his first commission — to paint a woman in the nude (T) (2186)
9.30 CHEERS Frasier proposes to Diane but doesn't get the reaction he was hoping for (r) (T) (57419)
10.00 FRASIER Frasier tries to stop a relationship forming between Roz and one of Niles's patients, a confirmed womaniser (T) (33341)
10.30 WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY? Improvised comedy (T) (284761)
11.05 TFI FRIDAY (r) (558148)



Buxton and Cornish (12.10am)

12.10 CHOICE **THE ADAM AND JOE SHOW** *Offbeat comedy show* presented by Adam Buxton and Joe Cornish (2583620)
12.40am FILM: Theatre of Death (1966) Chiller starring Christopher Lee, directed by Samuel Gallu (185705)
2.20 FILM: The Vengeance of Fu Manchu (1965) starring Christopher Lee as the Chinese fiend. Directed by Jeremy *Summers (540281)*
4.00 FILM: Baby Face (1933, b/w) with Barbara Stanwyck as an amoral adventuress. Directed by Alfred Green (91991). Ends at **5.10**

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

7.00am Love Connection (4630051) **7.20** Press Your Luck (4650815) **7.40** Jeopardy! (3877235) **8.10** Hotel (5222032) **9.00** Another World (5901885) **9.45** *Oprah Winfrey* (7572457) **10.40** Real TV (4495070) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (9027070) **12.00** Geraldo (86916) **1.00pm** 1 to 3 (76167) **3.00** Jenny Jones (15983) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (84490) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (5070) **6.00** New Adventures of Superman (98780) **7.00** Simpsons (3099) **7.30** M*A*S*H (9525) **8.00** Kung-Fu (55099) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (35235) **10.00** When Animals Attack (38322) **11.00** New Adventures of Superman *(12457)* **12.00** L.A.P.D. (77804) **12.30am** Real TV (60026) **1.00** Hit Mix Long Play (66484)

SKY 2

7.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1613070) **8.00** Nowhere Man (1699490) **9.00** Models Inc (1619254) **10.00** Fire (1612341) **11.00** Late Show with David Letterman (1037964) **12.00 FILM: Oh God! Book II** *(2368910)* **2.00am** *Hit Mix*

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Smoky (1966) (50564) **8.00 The Salzburg Connection (1972)** (70983) **10.00 The Ranger, the Cook and a Hole in the Sky (1995)** *(91877)* ***12.00 The Sandlot (1993)*** (60506) **2.00pm The Neptune Factor (1973)** (52902) **4.00 Clarence the Cross-Eyed Lion (1965)** (76254) **6.30 Renaissance Man (1994)** (74525) **7.30 All the Way with Arnie** (4693) **8.00 True Lies (1994)** (94954896) **10.20 Immortal Beloved (1994)** (163815) **12.20am Dancing with Danger (1994)** (8655129) **1.50 Flesh and Bone (1993)** (93427804) **3.55 Body Bags (1993)** (56936391)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am A Gift for Heidi (1958) (60235) **7.30 Ben-Hur (1959)** (53322) **8.30 The Care Bears Movie II: A New Generation (1986)** (73254) **10.00 Silence of Adultery (1995)** *(99419)* **12.00 The Sky's No Limit (1984)** (88149) **2.00pm Alone in the Woods (1995)** (50544) **4.00 New Adventures of Oliver Twist** (8544) **6.00 Cagney and Lacey: The View Through the Glass Ceiling (1995)** (10457) **7.30** Top 10 (2235) **8.00 Outbreak (1995)** (42525) **10.00 Phantasm III (1994)** (226983) **11.35 Above Suspicion (1994)** (479916) **1.15am Dangerous Intentions (1994)** (167026) **2.50 Schemes (1995)** (356939) **4.30 Silence of Adultery (1995)** (43587)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm A Tree Grows in Brooklyn (1945) (37319099) **6.10 Adam's Rib (1949)** (30758709) **8.00 Running Scared (1986)** (80530148) **10.15 Commando (1985)** (8912964) **12.00 Less Than Zero (1987)** (2784939) **1.40am No Sex Please, We're British! (1973)** (9890769) **3.15-5.00 Man in the Iron Mask (1939)** (6889484)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.
6.00am Mouse Tracks (4396341) **6.25** Quack Attack (4372148) **6.50** Bonkers (9296728) **7.15** Darkwing Duck (6645970) **7.40** Aladdin (3673728) **8.05** Quack Pack (3174099) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (3494032) **8.40** Sing Me a Story (8327761) **9.05** Grounding Marsh (5964761) **9.30** Big Garage (3493148) **9.45** Lamb Chop (198438) **10.15** Muppet Babies (5316984) **10.40** Wonderland (7998525) **11.10** Mouse Tracks (8329322) **11.40** Under the Umbrella Tree (9588983) **12.10pm** Fraggle Rock (3128544) **12.35** Lamb Chop (1703148) **1.05** Goof Troop (82467815) **1.30** Aladdin (94612032) **1.55** Darkwing Duck (94620051) **2.25** Bonkers (88113815) **2.50** Quack Attack (3608902) **3.20** Timon and Pumbaa (9024438) **3.30** Goof Troop *(7105032)* **3.55** Timon and Pumbaa (1503051) **4.05** Goof Troop (4917493) **4.35** Bonkers (2695322) **5.00** Aladdin (7827322) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (3130051) **5.35** Darkwing Duck (356326) **6.00** Sky Trackers (4815) **6.30** Freaky Friday (60688051) **8.20 FILM: The Nightmare Before Christmas** (6433418) **9.30-10.00** Home Improvement

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (48525) **7.30** Wrestling (13726) **8.30** *Racing News (66728)* **9.00** Sports Centre (40780) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (94099) **10.00** Tight Lines (57544) **11.00** Netbusters (37780) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (60544) **12.30pm** Asian Golf Show (72070) **1.30** Women's Golf: LPGA Tour Championships (822167) **4.30** World Sport Special (4612) **4.59** Sports Centre (2262506) **5.00** Netbusters (8186) **6.00** Sports Centre (73506) **7.00** FA Cup Second Round — Live (561544) **10.00** Sports Centre (74148) **11.00** Hold the Back Page (58273) **12.00** FA Cup Second Round (16804) **2.00am** Wrestling (85839) **3.00-4.00** Sports Centre (69842)

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00pm The Rugby Club (8914893) **9.00** NHL Ice Hockey: Power Week (6834457) **10.00** Wrestling (6837544) **11.00** Rugby League: Big League Classics (2240815) **11.30-1.00am** Cue Masters (3491322)

SKY SPORTS 3

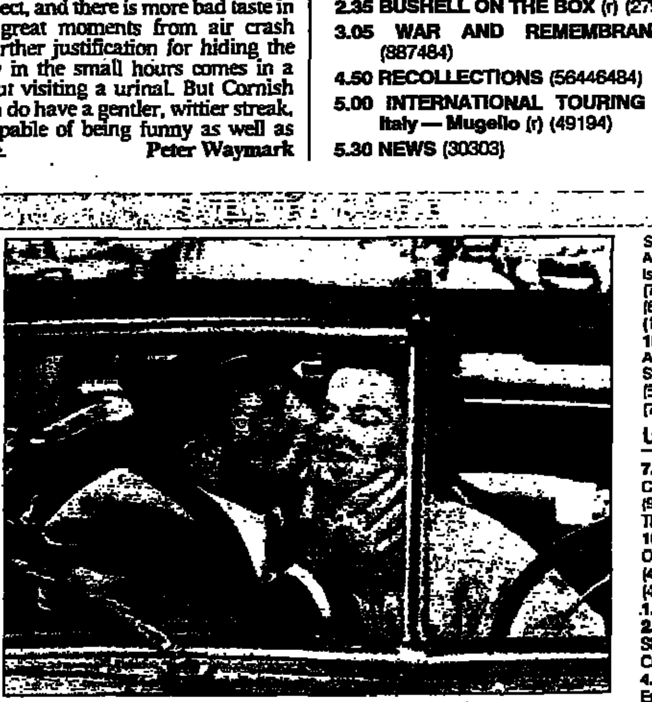
12.00 Football League Review (43969877) **1.00pm** Spanish Football (94672070) **3.00** Tennis: Grand Slam Cup — Live (42655964) **7.00** World Sports (41416148) **7.30** Velo-Cycling Magazine (83129525) **8.00** Trans World Sport (41359612) **9.00** Golf: JC Penney Classic — Live (41369099) **11.00-12.00** Tennis: Grand Slam Cup (60944902)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Sailing (59728) **8.00** Football: FIFA Futsal World Championship (23099) **10.00** International Motorsports Report (42612) **11.00** Football: UEFA Cup Third Round Second Leg (12167) **1.00pm** *Freestyle Skiing: World Cup — Live (88438)* **2.00** Tennis: Montpellier Women's Trophy — Live (98729) **4.00** Football: FIFA Futsal World Championship — Live (8582419) **5.15** Alpine Skiing: *Ski Special* (8229099) **6.00** Alpine Skiing: Women's World Cup — Live (91902) **7.00** Sumo (93273) **8.00** Supercross: World Championship — Live (507186) **10.30** Snowboarding (32761) **11.00-12.30** Football: FIFA Futsal World Championship (47419)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Runway (5173051) **6.30** Tickle on the Tum (29740780) **6.45** Time for a Story (82257273) **7.00** Allsorts (7658148) **7.15** Tickle on the Tum (8653728) **7.30** Catweazle (1631526) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (1952896) **8.30** Runway (1951167) **9.00** Families (1942419) **9.30** Albion Market (5462322) **10.00** What the Papers Say (7241490) **10.20** The Day (8654235) **10.30** Nearest and Dearest (1964631) **11.00** Mapp and Lucia (1640273) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (1955963) **12.30pm** Watching (5473438) **1.00** Adam Smith (1611781) **1.30** Families (5472709) **2.00** This Year, Next Year (6456167) **3.00** Nearest and Dearest (1042419) **3.30** What the Papers Say (71320896) **3.50** The Day (71625344) **4.00** Stolen (2585964) **5.00** Mapp and Lucia (1086099) **6.00** Classic Coronation Street (1831506) **6.30** Families (1855186) **7.00** Doing Their Thing (1057728) **7.30** Watching (1844070) **8.00** The XYY Man (8874693) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (2307273) **9.35** The Good Life Guide (2358780) **10.00-11.00** Stolen (8897544) **From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors**



Tracy and Hepburn in *Adam's Rib* (Sky Movies Gold 6.10pm)

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From 6.00am-9.00 TV High Street. Includes consumer news and features
From 9.00-12.00 Food and Wine. Includes recipes and ideas from Delia Smith
From 12.00-3.00pm Health and Beauty. Includes Natural Health
From 3.00-6.00 Home and Garden. Includes The Good Life Style Guide

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: Houdini (2249186) **5.00** Ancient Mysteries (1905815) **6.00** Weapons of War (4478070) **7.00-8.00** Biography: FDR (6938273)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

Films, features and classic series every day from **8pm-4am** Monday to Wednesday and **1am-4am** Thursday to Sunday on satellite, and from **8am-4am** every day on cable.
1.00am The Twilight Zone (6872200) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (6453552) **2.00** New Alfred Hitchcock (3391378) **2.30** Night Gallery (3303113) **3.00** Friday the 13th (5273026) **3.55-4.00** Quarks (78799129)

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am The Joy of Painting (4037902) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (2304341) **10.00** Go Fishing (9699709) **10.30** House Style (4033186) **11.00** The Restoration Game (1715677) **11.30** Craftwise (1716506) **12.00** Two's Country Cooking (4024438) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (2315457) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (1355235) **1.30** Home Again with Bob Vila (2314728) **2.00** Furniture to Go (7269780) **2.30** Secret Gardens (8518612) **3.00** Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (7287815) **3.30** This Old House with Steve and Norm (8520457) **4.00** Close (8509964) **DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.**
4.00pm Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (8508964) **4.30** Roadshow (8505148) **5.00** Time Travellers (7259032) **5.30** Terra X: Secrets of the Yaro (8529728) **6.00** Deadly Australians (8519341) **6.30** Galapagos Islands (8500693) **7.00** Next Step (7279896) **7.30** Mysterious Universe (8506877) **8.00** Natural Born Killers (1033254) **9.00** Justice Files (1013490) **10.00** The Driven Man (1023877) **11.00** The Astronomers (1385612) **12.00** After Desert Storm (8489026) **1.00am** The Extremists (5820571) **1.30-2.00** The Specialists II (7297939)

UK GOLD

7.00am Going for Gold (2026167) **7.35** Crossroads (2720506) **8.00** Neighbours (9374186) **8.25** EastEnders (2715780) **9.00** The Bill (4006032) **9.30** Colditz (8290167) **10.30** The Sullivans (4035544) **11.00** The Onedin Line (1353877) **12.00** Crossroads (40942693) **12.25pm** Neighbours (40945780) **12.55** EastEnders (7845877) **1.30** Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em (3263186) **2.15** After the Show (28415815) **2.30** Singer's Day (8510070) **3.00** Sale of the Century (7269273) **3.30** The Bill (8522815) **4.00** Howards' Way (1731815) **5.00** EastEnders (6439457) **5.35** Crossroads (6368506) **6.00** You Rang M'Lord? (2392506) **7.00** Bob's Full House (3730612) **7.45** The Best of Top of the Pops (1654761) **8.25** Ever Decreasing Circles (2030148) **9.00** Casualty (75384029) **10.05** The Bill (4499254) **10.40** Men Behaving Badly (4060047) **11.15** Live at Jongleurs (5653490) **11.45** Miami Vice (5473693) **12.40am FILM: Hawk the Slayer** (6682945) **2.15** Shopping (2597991)

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (4375235) **6.20** Meltdown: Teenage Urban Adventurers (4379051) **6.45** Halfway across the Galaxy and Turn Left (653438) **7.15** Ready or Not (653051) **7.45** California Dreams (652322) **8.15** Sweet Valley High (107457) **8.45** Art Attack (9707983) **9.00** Tiny TCC (until 3.00pm): Tiny and Crew (9063612) **9.20** Brum (9070148) **9.40** Johnson and Friends (1180001) **10.00** Robin and Rosie of Cockleshell Bay (8461803) **10.20** Philbert the Frog (6791167) **10.40** Charlie Chalk (4698709) **11.00** Dinobabies (90612) **11.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (91341) **12.00** Barney (97612) **12.30pm** Where's Wally? (25983) **1.00** Casper and Friends (14984) **1.30** Tiny and Crew (94625506) **1.55** Johnson and Friends (41106438) **2.20** Bump (80842803) **2.40** Mr Benn (3714821) **3.00** Halfway across the Galaxy and Turn Left (4902) **3.30** Ready or Not (6877) **4.00** California Dreams (3952) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (6896)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Turtles (52186) **6.30** Biker Mice (91380) **7.00** Rocko's Modern Life (3303001) **7.15** Hey Arnold (7542525) **7.30** Rugrats (59902) **8.00** Doug (65099) **8.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters (57070) **9.00** Where on Earth is Carmen Sandiego? (48322) **9.30** Wishbone (85341) **10.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (7277896) **10.10** Katie and Orbie (3528438) **10.35** Mr Men (2991186) **10.45** Bananas in Pyjamas (2371322) **11.00** Clarissa Explains It All (58032) **12.30pm** Sister Sister (96457) **1.00** Babar (46438) **1.30** Katie and Orbie (95728) **2.00** Little Bear Stories (6341) **2.30** Stickin Around (22457) **4.00** Incektors (5937821) **4.15** Technik (8387542) **4.30** Rugrats (8427631) **4.45** Doug (8422186) **5.00** Sister Sister (7693) **5.30** Moesha (3506) **6.00** Round the Twist (2849) **6.30-7.00** Sussed! (4099)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Diff'rent Strokes (7457) **7.30** Benson (3983) **8.00** Due South (82167) **9.00** Almost Perfect (34032) **9.30** Taxi (76693) **10.00** Entertainment UK (69815) **10.30** Girls on Top (45235) **11.00** Barry Welsh is Coming (46877) **11.30** Nightstand (59273) **12.30am** Sledge Hammer! (22264) **1.00** Due South (83262) **2.00** Entertainment UK (11533) **2.30** Barry Welsh Is Coming (30668) **3.00** Girls on Top (97378) **3.30** Almost Perfect (14620) **4.00** Close (35113)

BRAVO

12.00 Fantasy Island (2381490) **1.00pm** Remington Steele (2307438) **2.00** Automan (9687964) **3.00** Fantasy Island (1714148) **4.00 FILM: Orca, Killer Whale** (7285457) **6.00** Thunderbirds (2310902) **7.00** The Champions (1011032) **8.00** Starsky and Hutch (1020780) **9.00** Crime Story (1040544) **10.00-12.00 FILM: The Unnameable Returns** (1713419)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (1637099) **7.00** The Agony Experience (1264544) **7.30** The Young and the Restless (3636322) **8.20** A Taste of Wales (1522148) **8.55** Turnabout (8827254) **9.35** Trivial Pursuit (7551998) **10.00** Entertainment Now! (6996709) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (1380631) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (1595322) **11.55** Food and Drink (22827457) **12.20pm** Call the Doctor (40413728) **12.50** Gabrielle (2097877) **1.40** Rolonda (9657490) **2.30** The Agony Experience (2538186) **3.00** Live at Three (5570254) **4.00** Who's Sorry Now? (2529438) **4.30** Talkabout (2786457) **5.05** Lingo (45965964) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2532902) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (2538815) **6.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (8229937) **7.05** The New Mr and Mrs Show (4455235) **7.35** Trivial Pursuit (4069780) **8.00** General Practice (3358438) **9.00** FILM: Willing to Kill: The Texas Cheerleader Story (26017070) **10.50** Entertainment Now! (8235815) *11.00-12.00 Sex Files (1240964)*

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Blockbusters (3419) **5.30** Treasure Hunt (86902) **6.30** Catchphrase (1341) **7.00** The Pyramid Game (6983) **7.30** Hart to Hart (18709) **8.30** Duty Free (1438) **9.00** Bergerac (15419) **10.00** Stay Lucky (18506) **11.00** Rising Damp (82693) **11.30** Evening Shade (96070) **12.00** Lou Grant (61376) **1.00am** Bergerac (36376) **2.00** Hart to Hart (31755) **3.00** Lou Grant (77200) **4.00** All Together Now (51129) **4.30-5.00** The Black Stallion (27533)

MTV

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VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** Lifestyle East **8.30** Campus **9.00** Shri Krishna **9.30** Chehro **10.00** Hasratain **10.30** Urdu Serial: Kachwa Aur Kharagosh **11.00** Cookery Programme Zaike Ka Safar **11.30** Ten Bhi Chup Man Bhi Chup **12.00** Andaz **12.30pm** Nukkad **1.00** *Bengali Movie* **4.00** *Mere Saath Chal* **4.30** Sona Chandi **5.00** Zee Zone **5.30** Zee Presents **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** BBCD **7.30** Aahaa **8.00** News, Euronews **8.30** Antakshari **9.00-12.00** Hit Star Season - Ajay Devgan Suhaag

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 9pm, then TNT films as below.
8.00pm *WCW Nitro: Where the Big Boys Play!* (41357254) **9.00 Ivanhoe (1952)** (41350341) **11.00 White Heat (1949)** (50600419) **1.00pm Act of Violence (1949)** (52537571) **3.30-5.00 Ivanhoe (1952)** (72979649)

هكذا عن الأصل

TENNIS 42
Victorious Henman on double time in Munich

SPORT

FOOTBALL 44
Robson fears an end to United's adventure

Tour of Zimbabwe gets off to worst possible start as defeat signals early crisis of confidence

England suffer greatest humiliation

From Simon Wilde in Harare

HARARE (third day of four): Mashonaland beat England by seven wickets

IF ENGLISH cricket lasts for 1,000 years — and, on this evidence, there is a good chance it will not — men may still say of the national team's pitiful performance this week: "This was their least fine hour." There is a portrait of Winston Churchill, who once turned a similar phrase, hanging in the pavilion at the Harare Sports Club, but fortunately it faces away from the cricket pitch where England yesterday went down to a seven-wicket defeat at the hands of mighty Mashonaland. Otherwise, it might have fallen off the wall.

If they are not to experience further humiliations at the hands of Zimbabwe in the Test matches, England may need an in-form Churchill to lift their spirits in the next ten days because Michael Atherton, the captain, and David Lloyd, the coach, are rapidly running out of words to express their bewilderment at how this tour — supposedly a chance for everyone to boost their averages — is going after one week. One of the few rays of hope is that the motivational videos prepared by Lloyd arrived yesterday. They could not have come at a better time.

Those who have watched England cricket teams playing abroad over the past ten years are not, of course, short of disaster stories, but it is hard to find a collaring from an unexpected source quite as comprehensive as this one. England have lost to the full Zimbabwe side and the Australian Cricket Academy, but that was in one-day matches. Perhaps the closest rival is the defeat in Grenada two years ago at the hands of a West Indies Board XI, days after England had been dismissed for 46 by West Indies in Trinidad.

That game finished in its alloted three days, but here England were unable to take Mashonaland into the fourth day set aside for the game. Last night, Mashonaland, quite rightly refusing to risk handing back the initiative, declined England's request to meet again today in a one-day match. Instead, the touring team will practice at a local ground among themselves.

England resumed play yesterday with hopes of pulling themselves out of the trouble they had got into with their feeble batting performance on the first day. Tufnell duly claimed the last remaining wicket for the addition of one run — to give him his first five-wicket haul for an England side for two years — to restrict the deficit to 83, but within minutes of embarking on their second innings England were all at sea. That the trouble began with what was probably a poor decision is no excuse, because nobody could reasonably claim that England had the worst of the variable umpiring in this match.

In the third over, bowled by the admirable Kirtley, Knight was adjudged caught behind off a ball that may or may not have found an inside edge and may or may not have carried to the wicketkeeper. Knight left the field with great reluctance and not before umpire Kanjee was prompted to verify his decision with his square-leg colleague.

Atherton begins the walk back to the pavilion and Brent, the Zimbabwe bowler, celebrates as England stumble to defeat yesterday. Photograph: Stu Forster / ALLSPORT

No such doubts surrounded the dismissal of Stewart three balls later. Leaden-footed to a fast delivery of full length, he could do no more than deflect the ball into his stumps and England were four for two. Atherton held out until the fifteenth over for his longest brief innings of the tour before driving at an outswinger and being well held by David Campbell, the wicketkeeper, high to his right.

The bowler was Gary Brent, a medium pacer who might struggle to get into an English county side, but whose figures yesterday — four for 22 from ten overs — make him look like a world beater. His second victim was Thorpe, who dabbed half-heartedly and was also caught at the wicket. England were floundering at 29 for four.

Hussain and Crawley then put together England's highest partnership of the match, 76. Both batted well, Crawley in particular looking detached from all the nonsense going on around him. After Thorpe had given Paul Strang his first wicket, sweeping but barely out of his ground, Crawley was left trying to marshall a lower order that seemingly wanted to have a heave rather than do its job and hold up an end.

Before the day began, Strang was potentially England's most dangerous opponent, but much of the damage had been done even before he came on. He intended not to unveil his googlie before the Test series, but the prospect of a famous upset led him to bring it out and it accounted for Gough, one of his four victims. Strang's influence on the outcome is probably sufficient for England to start to worry about what problems he might cause them in the Tests.

On a pitch offering pronounced turn, a target of 150 would have given England an outside chance, but that prospect disappeared on the stroke of tea, when Crawley drove uppishly at Brent and was caught at mid-off for 74. Six overs after the interval, England were all out for 180, leaving Mashonaland 98 to win.

Zimbabwe sides are notoriously bad at chasing runs, but there was little likelihood of losing from here, even when Mullally quickly removed both openers, Flower to a stunning reflex catch by Crawley at short leg. Alistair Campbell and Houghton, careful at first of the threat posed by Tufnell and Croft, soon expanded into a flurry of boundaries and, just before the scheduled close, Campbell hit the winning runs to wild cheers from several hundred locals.

☐ The England tour manager in Zimbabwe, John Barclay, and the former national selector, Brian Bolus, have been chosen by the counties as the final two members of a new management committee to oversee the England team and determine who selects it. Barclay, the former Sussex player, and Bolus, the only man on the six-man committee to have played Test cricket, join Bob Bennett, the chairman, David Acfield, Lord MacLaurin and Tim Lamb. The group will meet for the first time in January.

Art of winning, page 46
Symonds' choice, page 46

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND XI: First Innings 197 (R D B Croft 80 not out; Kirtley 5-53)

Second Innings

N V Knight c D J Campbell b Kirtley	3
*M A Atherton c D J Campbell b Brent	7
†A J Stewart b Kirtley	0
N Hussain lbw b P A Strang	39
G P Thorpe c D J Campbell b Brent	2
J Crawley c Matambanadzo b Brent	74
R D B Croft b P A Strang	3
D Gough b P A Strang	12
A R Caddick c A D R Campbell b P A Strang	28
A D Mullally c and b Brent	2
P C R Tufnell not out	2
Extras (lb 6, nb 2)	8
Total	180

FALL OF WICKETS 1-4, 2-4, 3-27, 4-29, 5-105, 6-111, 7-137, 8-159, 9-167.

BOWLING. Kirtley 16-6-35-2, B Strang 11-5-18-0; Brent 10-3-22-4; P Strang 23.1-6-56-4, G Flower 11-2-43-0.

MASHONALAND: First Innings

G W Flower lbw b Tufnell	28
S V Carlisle c and b Gough	9
*A D Campbell c Hussain b Tufnell	55
D L Houghton c and b Tufnell	110
C B Wishart c Crawley b Croft	45
P A Strang c Crawley b Croft	6
†D J R Campbell c Hussain b Croft	8
G B Brent lbw b Croft	1
B C Strang lbw b Tufnell	0
D Matambanadzo not out	2
R J Kirtley lbw b Tufnell	3
Extras (lb 6, nb 7)	13
Total (85.4 overs)	280

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-22, 2-80, 3-142, 4-258, 5-266, 6-267, 7-274, 8-275, 9-275.

BOWLING: Mullally 12-2-42-0; Gough 16-3-43-1; Caddick 10-2-46-0; Tufnell 25.4-7-78-5; Croft 22-4-65-4.

Second Innings

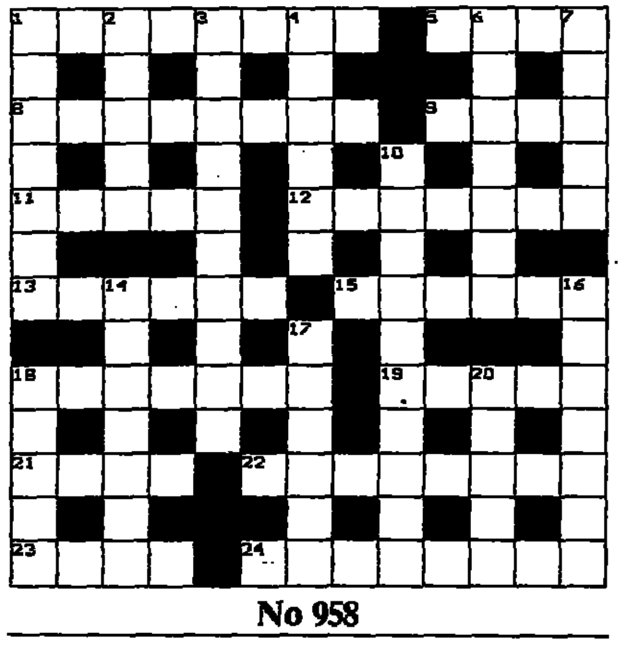
G W Flower c Crawley b Mullally	2
S V Carlisle b Mullally	3
*A D R Campbell not out	53
D L Houghton c Gough b Thorpe	34
C B Wishart not out	0
Extras (lb 5, nb 1)	6
Total (3 wkts)	98

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-11, 3-95.

BOWLING: Mullally 6-1-18-2; Gough 3-0-14-0; Tufnell 9-1-35-0, Croft 6.3-23-0; Thorpe 1-0-3-1

Umpires: K Kanjee and D Kalan.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 958

ACROSS
1 Rubble for building (8); uncompromising (4-4)
5 Part of trousers; one's country house (4)
8 Throw overboard (8)
9 Cry in lament; enthusiastic (4)
11 Line within circle; simultaneous notes (5)
12 Regard with worship (7)
13 Band of colour; mark of NCO rank (6)
15 Riches (6)
18 Tertius —, *Middlemarch* doctor (7)
19 Producer of loaves (5)
21 Steal; small cut (4)
22 Unvarying level of speech (8)
23 Place confidence (4)
24 Incautious (8)

DOWN
1 Seizes (aircraft) (7)
2 Proportion (5)
3 Very simple task (6,4)
4 Raw recruit (6)
6 OT book before Daniel (7)
7 Part of verb: taut (5)
10 Multistorey tenement (5,5)
14 Going to the root (7)
16 Horse/cart link (7)
17 — Kern: — K — (6)
18 Of the moon (5)
20 Currency of Norway, Denmark (5)

The solution to 957 will be published Wednesday, December 11

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Country cousins outplay pampered professionals

Simon Wilde points out that of the small number of cricketers in Zimbabwe, only nine are full-time players

THERE could hardly be a greater contrast between the social and sporting backgrounds of the Mashonaland players and the visitors they humbled yesterday. Zimbabwe cricket is small-time, largely amateur, under-exposed and under-funded; England possesses the largest professional circuit in the world and is a multi-million pound business, arguably with more money than it knows what to do with.

While several high-profile members of the England team — such as Atherton, Stewart and Gough — annually earn well over £150,000 a year, from county contracts, tour fees, international appearances at home, equipment endorsements, newspaper columns and advertising, not to mention being entitled to drive the ubiquitous sponsored car, it costs many of the Mashonaland players money to take time off work and beat England.

Five members of their team are amateurs, whose employment comes from farming and tobacco, staples of the Zimbabwean economy. To play for their province, they are paid the equivalent of £9 per day and, hardly surprisingly, many have to turn down invitations to play. That is why James Kirtley, an English professional who is spending the winter coaching in Harare, was drafted into the Mashonaland team for this match at short notice, after Eddo Brandes decided he could not afford to be away from his chicken farm.

David Houghton, who scored a century in the first innings of the match, is the best paid cricketer in Zimbabwe because he not only plays for the national team but coaches it. He receives £2,500 a year for his coaching duties.

In all, Zimbabwe possesses just nine professional cricketers. Five of them played for Mashonaland yesterday and England should encounter the other four when the take on Matabeleland in Bulawayo next week. These are the only two provincial teams in the country and last week Mashonaland won their annual play-off for the national championship.

There are some 350 serious adult cricketers in Zimbabwe and 30 clubs, most of them based in Harare and Bulawayo, among them Harare Sports Club, which staged yesterday's match and possesses a bowling machine only because Gloucestershire left one behind after a recent pre-season tour.

Cricket is still predominantly played here among whites, although Africans have recently taken up the game, but it is regarded by many as a diversion from other pastimes such as hunting and off-road driving. By far the most popular sport with the majority black population is football and attempts to qualify for the next World Cup.

Campbell, the Zimbabwe captain, made an unbeaten 53

Atherton goes for check-up

THERE was further worry for England yesterday when Michael Atherton, the England captain, went to hospital for a check-up on his long-standing back complaint. It did not reveal anything untoward, but he is to see an orthopaedic consultant and undergo an X-ray today as a further precaution (Simon Wilde writes).

Atherton has been in severe pain for several days and it appears to have affected his performances on the field, although he denied that yesterday. His three innings in Zimbabwe have occupied a total of just 42 balls and yielded only nine runs, and it seemed that he was in discomfort when he fielded on Wednesday.

But, after returning from hospital yesterday, he took the field for Mashonaland's second innings, later batted briefly in the nets and was anxious that his back trouble should not be used as an excuse for England's poor performance over the past three days.

Before his back pain resurfaced, Atherton was suffering from a viral infection and Wayne Morton, the England physiotherapist, believes that this illness may have prevented the daily medication he takes from working. Atherton is now over the illness and Morton hopes the painkillers will start to take effect again.

Atherton's problem is hereditary and he has battled with it for many years. He missed a one-day game for England in Australia two years ago but has not missed a Test match since being reinstated to the national side early in 1993, six months before he was appointed captain.